



Arc Over

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

April, 2006

President's Traffic

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Hopefully by now you have left your Winter Ham Radio basement haven for warmer and more physically active outdoor activities. Perhaps you were able to admire the raising and installation of a Step-IR Monster 4 element antenna at Kermit's W9XA QTH in Batavia. Maybe you have been educated and are on your way to getting a General Class license. Maybe, like me, you have been working on getting a nice clean radio installation on a motorcycle or getting rid of RFI from the electric steering system in a Saturn Vue. Maybe you are working on the HF Challenge, in spite of the low sun spot numbers. Maybe you are thinking about how you can have more fun with the club at Field Day or give back to the club by helping run the Canoe Race communications. We are still looking for a Canoe Race Chairman.

Greg, N9CHA, reported a good turn-out and an enthusiastic response to the first General Upgrade Class at the Prisco Center. The classes will continue for several more weeks. If you are interested, please contact Greg at Education@frrl.org.

Mike, K9FBI, has created a "suggestion box" that is available for use at the monthly meetings. Please put your comments and suggestions in the box, and they will be reviewed and discussed at the next board meeting. You can either sign your comments or remain anonymous — it's your choice. We would really like to hear your ideas and suggestions.

April Program Notes

Have you ever wanted to know how an antenna would work before you spend the time and money to put it up? Well for \$0 to \$90 you can find out how antennas work. Although there is a full ARRL education class for EZ-NEC, I will try to give you a summary of the features and functionality and some examples of using the program from start to finish. This program will be for the April meeting. In May, there are some plans to show how to build some simple direction finding equipment for transmitter hunts.

Dick Illman, AH6EZ
FRRL President

Erickson HF Challenge Update

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

“Accept the Challenge”

“From Nothing Comes Nothing”

“It’s better to Have Tried and Failed Than to Have Never Tried at All”

Those are three phrases we’ve all heard. Three phrases with a single commonality, namely that everything we do is a challenge. From the challenge comes strength and in the end enjoyment in a job well done. Is something which is easily done really as much fun, as enjoyable, as something which is hard? If every time you turned on your rig and could work Mount Athos, Central Kiribati, Japan, Italy or even Delaware for that matter, would the hobby be as much fun, would there be a challenge?

Once you have 5 Band Worked All States, Worked All Zones, 5 Band DXCC, what’s left? Perhaps not much. Maybe you think you’ve done all there is to do. Maybe the challenge has disappeared. Until one day, your friend calls you up and says, “ I bet I can work more contacts than you in.....a year”. So there it is again, The Challenge, set before you, this time not part of an organized competition, but a simple contest between two friends, a way to motivate each other to keep active on the HF bands. This is how the FRRL HF Challenge came to be — starting with two friends, Bill Erickson-WA9TPQ(sk) and Joe Dubeck-NA9A finding a way to motivate each other.

Motivation is the drive and determination to set a goal for ones’ self and see it through to the end. My motivation for involvement in the HF Challenge this year was to achieve RTTY WAS (Worked All States), which I completed in March. Mike Bentley –K9FBI also completed Phone WAS in March. While Mike and I chased the confirming QSL’s and ponder 5 Band WAS two others also completed WAS, Dick –AH6EZ and Gary-AL9A. For them it is not the first or even the second time, but the accomplishment is still there. Joe-NA9A is concentrating on his personal goal of working all time new entities, the longer you are active on HF the harder this becomes. Even though his score may be lower than others it is testimony that there are always new adventures. Bill-KB9YSI upgraded to Extra Class, an adventure in itself. A whole new world of opportunity and fun has opened up for him. We also welcome two new entrants, Warren-K9IH and a new member, Larry-K9ARZ. Thank you for your participation.

Challenge and motivation. Whether is it working all states, working all zones, building a kit, building an antenna, installing a mobile rig or upgrading your license, all require determination and a promise to yourself. Accept the challenge, give it a try. If you do and you don’t succeed, try again. If you don’t, you’ll always wonder....what if.

This month’s scores are on Page 5.

Dues News

The annual club roster is in production and we hope to have it ready for delivery at the April meeting. However, that does not mean you are prohibited paying your dues for 2006. Renewal dues and new memberships are always welcome. New members will have their first year's dues prorated to the nearest yearly quarter.

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

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.

Next Gen Hams Easter Egg Hunt

The Next Gen Hams are having an Easter egg hunt on Sunday, April 9 from 2-3pm at the Prisco Center in Aurora. Please bring your kids, grandkids, kids' friends and any other kid you can think of to search for plastic eggs, answer questions and win prizes! The eggs will contain questions about ham radio and other fun facts that kids might know and they will be color coded for different age groups.

The hunt will be a fun way for kids to show off their radio knowledge.

Hope to see you there!

73, Tobi, KC9GDL

AH6EZ Named Technical Excellence Prize Winner

By: Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

FRRL President Dick Illman, AH6EZ, will receive the 2006 Technical Excellence Award at this year's Dayton Hamvention. Dick will receive the award for his work in developing a broadband over power line (BPL) system for Motorola that essentially eliminates HF interference. The nominating committee cited his technical knowledge and his willingness to help tackle and overcome BPL's thorny interference issues, influencing Motorola to deliver his patent-pending solution, Powerline LV.

Motorola introduced the Powerline LV BPL solution at the United Telecom Council's "Telecom 2005." The ARRL has cited the Motorola solution in filings to the FCC as an example of a BPL system designed to avoid interference to or from Amateur Radio.

Dick holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and has enjoyed a 31-year career with Motorola Systems Engineering. His idea to include a set of hardware notch filters in Motorola's Powerline LV equipment to protect Amateur Radio beyond the traditional technique of turning off specific carriers is an industry first.

Dick's passion for ham radio began in high school as a Novice licensee in 1969 and has continued over 37 years on all bands and all modes. It has included everything from working satellites while aboard a moving passenger train to demonstrating ISS contacts to Boy Scouts. An avid DXer, he works more than 200 countries each year. Dick has been the FRRL president for the past two years and has been recognized with the club's Ham of the Year award three years in a row.

All of us congratulate Dick on an outstanding and well-deserved achievement.

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/

Bill Erickson HF Challenge — March, 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
K9JE	42/1	112	155
W9DTR	39/9	82	130
K9FBI	50/3	72	125
N9YA	36/5	69	110
N9CHA	44/7	41	92
KB9YSI	38/5	37	80
K9IH	11/4	3	18

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ	46/8	90	144
K9COE (Digital)	50/8	60	118

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/9	133	192
W4CEO	39/3	87	129
AL9A	50/6	25	85
NA9A	2/1	13	16

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
Adam Smuczerowicz	KC9ITG	Tech	Aurora	April

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 continues to grow; 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

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 May 16, 2006, at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora, IL. At 7:30 pm.

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

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

Mailing Address:

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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

April, 2006

FRRL Board Meeting..... 4
FRRL Meeting..... 11

May, 2006

FRRL Board Meeting..... 2
FRRL Meeting..... 9
VE Testing 16

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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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. (Kane Co. SKYWARN)
-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.

Waiting for the Spotlight

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

As many of you know, the Boulder Hill Elementary School in Oswego has been scheduled to participate in a school contact with the International Space Station. Right now, our ISS contact is at least one year away at the earliest. So, what do you do while waiting for your ten minutes in the spotlight? I suppose the answer depends on how long the wait is! The Boulder Hill Elementary School Radio Club (W9BHB, the perfect vanity call for the Boulder Hill Bobcats – bobcat being the school mascot) was formed to “introduce methods of communication and concepts of how wireless technology intertwine in our daily lives”. It is a look at technology, where it has been and where it is going. Amateur Radio is the educational tool of choice. We try to plant the seeds for the kids to become part of the hobby while not forcing the issue.

So back to the question of what to do while we wait. We’ve done several things. We built Morse code buzzers, playing with CW and basic electricity as we went. We talked to Gary, AL9A, in Alaska via IRLP, practicing the skills we’ll need for the ISS contact. We also talked to WA4IVM, Jim in Virginia via AO-51 to make the connection to space. We’ve made numerous SSB contacts across the globe, learning that you can be a friend to someone you’ve never met face to face.

One thing we hadn’t done, and seemed appropriate, was to take a trip back in time to the early days of radio. Back to the classic project most, if not all of us, built when we were kids: a Crystal Radio. Having 30 kids in the club made it impossible for each to have a set, so we split the club into five teams, each building a different style of radio. Some with diodes, some with homebrew crystal stands and galena crystals, and yes, even one with a rusty razor blade (edge dulled for safety).

I sent an invitation to visit the club to Dr. David Behlow, Superintendent of Schools for Oswego District 308. I thought it would be nice for the kids as the Dr. is always interested in what the students in his schools are doing. He replied quickly and said that he’d like to come and that he had built a crystal radio himself as a kid. He arrived at 3:25, before school was out, a half hour before we planned on his arrival. After introductions he walked around the room watching the kids, visiting each group and listening to what was going on. He went back to one particular group and started helping. They must have been building a set similar to the one he made as a kid, the one with the crystal detector stand. He dug right in and had the biggest smile on his face. The kids really thought it was great, not only that the Superintendent would take time after school to visit, but that he actually became part of the club. Kids like to know that adults are interested in what they do, that it has some meaning.

Dr. Behlow stayed for the entire meeting, leaving only after the last kids had gone. He thanked us for taking the time to put it all together, to which we replied that it’s about the kids and their curiosity and interest.

Something you can do while waiting for your moment in the sun is to spread the warmth a little bit and take a trip back in time, remembering your own journey, and share it with someone new.

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Waiting for the Spotlight

(Continued from page 9)

Oh, in case you were wondering about those radios, the ones the kids built? Well they are on display right up front in the schools display cases. Just in time for parent / teacher conferences, and right in a spot where anyone coming into the school can see them. It's something for our 30 club members and our school to be proud of.



Students from the Boulder Hill Elementary School Amateur Radio Club experience the thrill of a Crystal Radio Set.

Dr. David Behlow, Superintendent of Schools for District 308, joins the kids in building a crystal set..



(L to R) Dr. Behlow and hams K9COE, John, N9CHA, Greg, N9CHA, and N9JAB, Joe, display some of the crystal sets built by the Boulder Hill Amateur Radio Club.