



# Arc Over

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

April, 2007

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## President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The Boulder Hill Elementary School Radio Club, W9BHB had their very successful contact with the ISS on March 6. Our club Secretary, and Control Operator of the ARISS event John K9COE enlisted the support from several FRRL club members. They included Mike K9FBI, Ken N9WCX, Bill KC9GZX, Joe KC9FPD, Eric KC9FQV, Dorwin K9DHK, Joe N9JAB and Earl N9FNX. If you have not already looked at the pictures, or listened to the contact audio, I encourage you to do so. You will find all the details on our web site.

Our club is once again offering ham radio classes. Eric KB9IDT, our Education Chairperson has developed several "General Class" upgrade sessions. A special thanks goes to Kermit W9XA for organizing the classroom at the Batavia Public Library. Please review the schedule in this issue of the Arc Over and on the web site. Did you know that by upgrading your license you are not only rewarding yourself with new operating privileges, but you are helping out the club as well? The more education we all take advantage of means our club is developing more human assets to help newcomers to the hobby. I have heard from several club members wishing to help Eric and his students with the upgrade classes. Thanks to all, and good luck!

We have many new General Class operators due to the recent rule changes. As I gaze out my ham shack window, I have noticed a glow of RF covering the Fox River Valley as our fellow club members try out their new privileges. The Techs also have new operating privileges as well... have fun!

The membership meetings have been great! Most of our members arrive at the Prisco Community Center by 7pm to take advantage of the information tables. Membership Coordinator, Mike K9FBI; Arc Over Editor, Bill KB9YSI, Kane County ARES Coordinator, Eric KC9FQV and the D-Star team led by Kermit W9XA among others are ready to answer your questions and provide information. An Elmer table has also been set up and being supported by Dick AH6EZ, Chris KC9IEQ and Mike K9FE.

Michelle KC9HDB is now soliciting volunteers who wish to help out with communications during the MS Walk event in St. Charles on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Carol WD9CNW is walking the event again this year and would like your support in the way of contributions. Carol's husband Tim N9TO contributes by offering his van as transportation to those in the community who may need a ride back to the starting line.

Field Day (June 23-24) plans are well underway. Charles KC9DAO and his team have already identified several club members who have stepped forward to be band captains. This year we will also be getting support from the Kane County ARES group. They have volunteered to support the 80/15 phone bands during the national operating event.

Denny W9HI has handed off the responsibilities of Net Control Manager to Adam, KC9ITG. Thanks Denny for all your help organizing our nets. Adam's responsibilities include organizing and scheduling the net con-

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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 March 13, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 61 members present.

Question of the Month: Do you use CW on a regular basis? (Majority of those present answered NO)

**ARISS CONTACT SUCCESSFUL:** John, K9COE gave a report about the successful Boulder Hill Elementary ISS QSO via the school club W9BHB. Thanks given to all who assisted with the event. Many thanks have been received (HR119 in Springfield congratulated both the students and FRRL for the contact, letters from other officials received also).

Minutes of the previous meeting were posted to the web, printed in the ArcOver and available for review.

Treasurers Report: W9OKI not present, no report.

Committee Reports:

Database: 140 paid members. Reminder Roster should be published and ready for distribution at the April meeting.

Nets: Adam, KC9ITG is the new Net Control Manager.

Education Committee: Eric, KC9IDT announced a General upgrade class will take place in April. See him if you are interested.

Newsletter: March edition has been published. If you have story ideas see Bill, KB9YSI

Public Relations: Kent W9NDW is the new PR Chairman.

Webmaster: Updates taking place regularly, new photos and information as it becomes available is posted.

VE: Regular session is scheduled for Tuesday March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Prisco Center in the basement.

Next Gen: Nets returning on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 7PM of the FRRL 2 meter repeater.

MS Walk: Looking for volunteers for the event Sunday May 6<sup>th</sup>, see Michelle – KC9HDB is you are interested.

Cougars Night: July 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM tickets are \$10 see Ken, N9WCX if you would like to buy tickets.

Field Day: Operating Class 8A, looking for Band Captains for 20 PSK and 40 Phone. See Charles if you would like to be a Band Captain or would like to help out otherwise.

Hamfest: Dean, KC9EOQ explained the date has been changed to July 8<sup>th</sup> to follow Indianapolis. Vendor K1CRA has committed to be at our fest. Tickets will be distributed to members starting with the April meeting. Each member is responsible for 6 tickets (\$30) rather than the 10 tickets in past years. Members are expected to sell or buy the tickets.

Program: How to Operate CW without knowing CW. Next month a follow on program of getting antennas up in restricted space.

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## President's Traffic

*(Continued from page 1)*

trol operators, putting together club announcements, and developing the future structure of how the Tuesday night net is run. Congratulations Adam, and thank you for taking on this very important position in our club!

At the March meeting, the FRRL membership voted unanimously to send The ARRL Foundation a scholarship donation of \$200. This was done in memory of Ed Metzger W9PRN, former ARRL Central Division Director and Honorary Vice President. Thanks to all for your support. Ed was a dear friend of many of our members, and set a wonderful example for those who wish to participate in amateur radio on the national level.

73 Greg Braun N9CHA

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## Meeting Minutes March 13, 2007

*(Continued from page 2)*

### General Announcements:

Welcome back to Dave, N9XU after his heart bypass operation. Kermit announced that Mark will be doing a D-Star presentation at the upcoming AES Superfest. Jack, K9JE reminded anyone who has QSL's for the Outgoing Bureau to get them to him for forwarding. Joe, NA9A reminded the members about the 10-10 Net on 28.150 CW and 28.720 Phone Mondays starting at 8PM (CW). Jack was also presented his Challenge Award for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Operator Class.

Emergency Coordination: WX Spotter classes are available in various locations also a presentation is coming up at Fermi Lab. Kent announced that he is placing a mass order for Arrow J-Pole antennas, \$35 each, see him if interested.

Tim has new band plan charts available, see him to get one.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Ed Metzger, W9PRN now SK. Former Central Division Director. A motion was brought to the floor by W9GIG to donate \$200 from the FRRL to the ARRL Scholarship Fund in Ed's name. Seconded by W9XA. Passed unanimously. Following the vote, Dick, W9GIG spoke about Ed's 44 years of service, life and great legacy to the ham community and community in general.

A question was raised by Eric, KC9FQV concerning the publishing of Board Meeting Minutes. No plans to do so at this time.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM

Break, raffle and program to follow

Respectfully Submitted:

John Spasojevich, Secretary

## **FRRL General Upgrade Class Scheduled**

By Eric Gustafson, KB9IDT

The FRRL will be holding a General upgrade class on five weekends in April and May. We will cover all of the material that you need in order to upgrade from a Technician class amateur radio license to a General class license. (Due to recent FCC rule changes, this now involves a written exam only.)

PREREQUISITE: A Technician class amateur radio license.

LOCATION: The classes will be held at the Batavia Public Library, 10 S Batavia Ave, Batavia, IL. The Library is located at the corner of Wilson Street and Route 31 in Batavia.

TIMES: Dates and times are as follows: (Note the varying start times!)

April 14 — 8:00am - 12 noon  
April 21 — 12 noon - 3:00pm  
May 5 — 9:00am - 12 noon  
May 12 — 9:00am - 12 noon  
May 19 — 9:00am - 12 noon

TEXTBOOK: There is no charge for the class; however, we do expect all students to obtain a copy of the ARRL General Class License Manual 5th Edition ahead of time, which will be used throughout the class. The cost is around \$20, excluding tax/shipping. The book can be purchased from the ARRL web site, Amazon, and other sources. Please place your orders ASAP so that you will have the manual when the class begins!

### **HOW DO I SIGN UP?**

If you are interested in attending the class, please send an e-mail to [education@frrl.org](mailto:education@frrl.org) with your name, your callsign, your e-mail address, and a telephone number at which you can be reached. We ask that you sign up ahead of time so that we can guarantee adequate space for the class.

### **I'M ALREADY A GENERAL (OR ADVANCED OR EXTRA) - HOW CAN I HELP?**

Want to help make this class a success? You can:

**DONATE A LICENSE MANUAL ...** If you have a new or gently-used copy of the General Class License Manual sitting around gathering dust and you would be willing to donate it to the class, please contact Eric ([education@frrl.org](mailto:education@frrl.org)). These come in handy in the event that someone is not able to obtain a manual before the class. Please be sure it is the 5th Edition with the current question pool.

**SIT IN AS AN "ELMER"...** If you would like to attend one or more class sessions as an Elmer to answer questions or share experiences with the other hams in the class, we would love to have you! Please contact Eric([education@frrl.org](mailto:education@frrl.org)) to let him know of your intentions and to ensure room capacity.

**QUESTIONS:** If you have any questions about the class or how you can assist, please e-mail Eric Gustafson, KB9IDT, at [education@frrl.org](mailto:education@frrl.org)

## **April Program Notes**

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The April program is titled "Antennas For You", and it is a continuation of the March program.

If you bring in a sketch with measurements or a scaled drawing of your house, attic, yard, trees, fences, chimney, verboten areas, etc, there will be a lot of information about VHF/UHF, 6m and HF antennas. We will suggest potential solutions with pros and cons for what you want to accomplish. All ideas and suggestions as a group will be entertained. It should be a lot of fun and will help educate everyone on potential ways to get on the air.

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## **FRRL MS Walk Public Service Event**

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

On Sunday, May 6, 2007, the FRRL will provide communications support for the Greater Illinois Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society as they sponsor their annual MS Walk in St. Charles. During the walk club members are stationed at rest stops along the route and relay safety and logistics messages to various walk officials and volunteers. The club also provides a support vehicle for transportation of tired walkers and supplies.

All club members are welcome to participate in this event, which usually runs from 7:00 am until 1:00 pm. Lunch is provided. If you'd like to participate, please contact Michelle Powell, KC9HDB, at [michelled1970@hotmail.com](mailto:michelled1970@hotmail.com)

Last year the 2006 Illinois MS Walk raised over \$3 million dollars for multiple sclerosis research.

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## **Kids Roundup 2007 Contest**

By Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Calling all Next Gen Hams! April 21-22 compete in a contest just for kids. The Kids Roundup 2007 is sponsored by the Anne Arundel Radio Club, Jr., a club for kids located in Maryland. This national contest can be worked on bands from 80 meters to 70 centimeters, and includes the use of repeaters, IRLP and Echo-link. It is phone only. The following is an excerpt from the website explaining the contest:

The purpose of this contest is to have fun and promote amateur radio among youth. The concept is relatively simple: Kids get on the air and make contacts with other kids and adults. Contacts with kids are more valuable than contacts with adults. We envision and encourage a little rag chewing as part of the contest. Remember, the idea is to have fun.

This contest is open to kids in the U.S., Canada and other countries under the age of 18. Licensed adults may participate in the contest but more importantly, licensed adults and amateur radio clubs are encouraged to help kids get on the air, make contacts and have fun.

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## Kids Roundup Contest

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In the United States, a licensed control operator is required for unlicensed kids to participate or for licensed kids to operate above their current privileges.

All U.S. amateurs must follow the U.S. 3rd party rules.  
Non-U.S. participants must comply with the rules of their amateur radio governing organization, especially those regarding third party contacts with U.S. stations

The contest runs from 400 UTC Saturday to 2200 UTC Sunday.

Exchange: The required exchange consists of:

Call Sign  
QTH - US State, Canadian Province or other DX Country  
Category (M, L, C, U, Y or O see their website for operator categories)  
First name

For more information, contest rules and free contest software please visit <http://ki3ds.org> or email [ki3ds@ki3ds.org](mailto:ki3ds@ki3ds.org)

As an incentive, a prize will be awarded by the FRRL to The Next Gen Ham with the most contacts. Send the total count of contacts made in the contest to [tngams@frri.org](mailto:tngams@frri.org).

Fellow club members, join me on the 2 meter repeater and other bands, to help the kids make contacts. I will be trolling around listening for any Next Gen Hams out there, as well as contestants around the country. Let's show 'em what The Next Gen Hams can do!

Tobi, K9TCD, chair, The Next Gen Hams committee

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## New Next Gen Ham Net Schedule

After taking some time off, the Next Gen Hams net for kids are back. Nets will take place on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 7:00 pm on 147.210. Anyone under age 18, licensed or not, is welcome.

## Field Day 2007 Update

By Charles Penninger – KC9DAO

The snow is gone and sunny days are coming. All too soon it will be Field Day.

Our Band Captains are set in place:

80/15 phone is KC9FQV, Eric & KC9BKS, Chris as co-captains.  
80/15 CW is W9XA, Kermit.

40 phone is K9DHK, Dorwin.  
40 CW is WB9CHY, Tom.  
40 PSK is K9COE, John.

20 phone is AH6EZ, Dick.  
20 CW is W9OKI, Larry and K9JE, Jack as co-captain.  
20 PSK is N9TO, Tim.

6 / 2/ 440 is WB9LPW, Bill

K9TCD, Toby will handle the Next Gen tent, KC9CBY, Kirt has accepted the welcome tent assignment, and Denny, W9HI will captain the GOTA station.

We still need many more volunteers to fill in the Band Co-Captain positions, so e-mail me or e-mail direct to the Band Captains.

I will have operator sign up sheets at the next meeting.

73 to all and I'll keep the updates coming.

Charles Penninger – KC9DAO

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### New Members:

Please welcome the following new members of the FRRL who have joined recently; Don Baltzer, WA9FZE, Steve Brichta, WB9ZNL, Jeff Dubin, N9MXT, Tom Koranda, KA9QGT, Norm Paul, KC9CKZ, and Don Swift, KB2IBZ.

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores— March, 2007

Here are the current standings for the 2007 HF Challenge as of March 15. Welcome to the new participants this month!

<b>Ragchew Class</b>	<b>States/Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
K9FE	-	-	32
N9YA	-	-	31
AH6EZ	-	-	12
KC9CHG	-	-	7
NA9A	-	-	1
WB9CHY	-	-	1

<b>Operator Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
N9CV	36/5	55	95
K9FE	40/10	44	94
N9YA	50/6	18	74
K9TCD	30/0	38	68
KB9YSI	15/3	7	25
KC9EOQ	4/0	20	24
WB9CHY	21/0	2	23
KC9CHG	19/0	0	19

<b>Limited Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
K9ARZ— PSK	50/9	102	161

<b>QRO Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
AH6EZ	49/12	141	202
NA9A	16/1	150	167
W9CEO	37/3	62	102

## 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 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 15, 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

## 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

Greg Braun, N9CHA

#### Vice President

Denny Barfuss, W9HI

#### Secretary

John Spasojevich, K9COE

#### Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

#### Directors:

Mike Bentley, K9FBI

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Charles Penninger,  
KC9DAO

#### Past President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

#### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

#### Newsletter Editor

Bill Muhr, KB9YSI  
newsletter@frrl.org

#### Webmaster

Tom Davis, WB9CHY  
webmaster@frrl.org



**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>

## Handy Web Links

<b>FRRL Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.frri.org/">http://www.frri.org/</a>
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>

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

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### April, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 3  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 10  
 General Upgrade Class .... 14  
 General Upgrade Class .... 21  
 Sandwich Hamfest..... 29

#### May, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 1  
 MS Walk ..... 6  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 8  
 VE Testing ..... 15

### 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](mailto: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 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.