



Arc Over

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

April, 2008

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

When was the last time you had to answer the question, "what is ham radio?" Perhaps it was recently, or maybe it was quite a while ago. Do you remember your answer? I remember going to a seminar some time ago and being introduced to the "elevator speech." We were instructed to tell someone about us and our business in a short, quick answer, not longer than a few second elevator ride between floors in a high-rise.

The answer to the question is different for each of us, and it says something about what we take-away from the hobby. Your answer might include, "It's a hobby where radios are used to communicate with others around the globe." Or, "I use a radio to talk to my friends to and from work each day to eliminate the boredom of my commute." How about, "I enjoy experimenting with antennas and seeing who I can talk to and how far my signal gets out."

Ham radio certainly is a hobby like no other. We use a special language, various digital modes, the venerable Morse code, and other jargon that keeps the general public at bay, QSL? Some enjoy the hobby because it's a way to give back to the community. Events like the MS Walk in May, have special meaning to our Chairperson Michelle KC9HDB and others who have had their lives touched by the disease.

Another events this year in which we will help the public is the Oswegoland Park District's "Big Mouth" adventure race. Phil W9XAN and Bart KC9FQA are working with the event organizers to coordinate our club volunteers and provide communications. This April 12th event will need lots of communicators starting at 5:30 am at Hudson Crossing Park in Oswego.

For those who like to experiment, our annual Field Day event offers a chance to work with other club members to design and implement an efficient antenna solution in a RF challenged environment. Charles KC9DAO is working hard organizing our FD effort for the 28th and 29th of June. Your help is needed to make this another fun and successful event.

Our hobby provides a vast amount of possibilities to be engaged with the public, and with each other. The Linux special interest group is a good example of this. FRRL hams get together each month to experiment with their computers and radio related software. The transmitter hunts have been a lot of fun and a great way to use our DF tools. Many club members attend hamfests together and enjoy each others company. While others in the club have enjoyed experimenting with D-Star and all the possibilities it has to offer.

I have met several new members recently and am encouraged by their enthusiasm to be involved with our club. Each brings a special talent to the organization. Many have re-discovered the hobby after a multi-year lapse. Others tell me they were always interested in electronics, since early childhood, and want to participate in a hobby where they can satisfy their curiosities. And, let's not forget those who were introduced to the hobby by their family members. In any case, congratulations to all who have become hams, and welcome!

You never know when you might be asked about our hobby. The question might come from a work colleague or a curious neighbor. What are you going to say? Think about how you might answer the question, "what is ham radio?" What is your elevator speech?

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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 11, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 60 members present, 2 first time visitors.

Greg, N9CHA, announced an experiment with new meeting format starting this month. The standard club business will be condensed, 3 breakout / information groups will be available for approximately 30 minutes, and then, after a brief recess for the monthly drawing and refreshments, the monthly program will be presented. This change is being made to allow for more socialization time at the monthly General Meeting, to provide exposure to more aspects of the hobby, and encourage more hands-on activities by the members.

This month's breakout groups were:

- Installing PL-259 connectors on several different kinds of coax by Mike, K9FE.
- PSK31 demonstration by John, AG9D, and Bill NF9D.
- DF / Foxhunting equipment by Dick, AH6EZ.

Question of the Month: Would you like to know in advance what breakouts will be offered at the next meeting?

Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

Treasures Report: Total Assets: \$25,159 (Cash/Savings = \$8385 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

Committee Reports

Database: 181 paid members

Hamfest: Again this year, each member will receive 5 tickets at \$6 each to sell. They will be available at the April Meeting.

Program: This month's program will be presented by Dick, AH6EZ, on DF / foxhunting equipment and techniques.

Public Relations: Catherine, KC9KJU, was taking orders from a catalog of club logo items from B&B Embroidery and had jackets in several different sizes and styles to try for sizing. 30 items needed to be ordered in order to receive free setup for our club logo and a discount.

Technical Committee: Mike, K9FE, has scheduled the next Linux SIG for his qth on the 4th Saturday of this month, 3/29/2008, 9 AM – 1 PM.

Special Events: Bart, KC9FQA, and Phil, W9XAN, are looking for volunteers to provide communications for the Oswego Big Mouth Adventure Race on Saturday, 4/12/2008. Please contact either of them if interested. For more information on the event, visit <http://www.oswegolandparkdistrict.org>.

The next FRRL Fox Hunt will be held on Sunday, 3/30/2008 from 1–4 PM. The starting point will be:

Colonial Café

1961 W Galena Blvd

Aurora, IL 60506.

General meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

As you know, we have decided to hold our monthly board meetings at different locations to avoid paying for meeting space at the Prisco Center. The locations for the next two meetings are as follows:

- May: At the home of Larry Shaw, W9OKI.
- June: At Penninger Radio, KC9DAO's shop in W. Chicago.

Finally, severe weather season is here. If you are not already involved with weather spotting, please consider attending a training session and participating in Skywarn activities. And please remember to check your emergency supplies and plan for

weather emergencies with your family. As we've seen, severe weather can strike at any time and its effects can be devastating.

73,

Greg N9CHA
FRRL President, 2008

March Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

Breakouts, raffle, and program to follow.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update –March, 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Eric (KC9FQV) reports: "I continued to make some interesting contacts. Worked a couple of hams new to Digital modes and was able to help them with their setups and programs. I made my first DX RTTY contact to P4IYL in Aruba...that's a mode I want to work more (it has a 'culture' all its own!). I tried to work TX5C, but either I wasn't able to listen when they were working North America, or I just couldn't cut through the pileups. Maybe next time!"

Herb (W9DTR) mentions contacts with Ethiopia, Gambia, Namibia, San Marino and Morocco.

Joe (NA9A) worked TX5C on 3 bands!

Did you know that TX5C was a Dxpedition to Clipperton Atoll, a French possession southwest of Mexico. It has no permanent inhabitants, but Wikipedia reports: "There have been infrequent scientific and amateur radio expeditions, and, on one occasion, Jacques-Yves Cousteau visited with his team of divers."

Here are the current standings as of March 15. Welcome to new participants W9DTR and KC9ITG.

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO	-	-	42
W9DTR	-	-	22
KC9FQV	-	-	20
AH6EZ	-	-	10
NA9A	-	-	7
N9YA	-	-	3
WB9CHY	-	-	2

Operator Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NF9D	46/7	67	120
W9DTR	39/6	58	103
N9CV	45/7	35	87
K9JE	38/5	33	76
K9TCD	37/2	19	58
N9YA	25/3	5	33
KC9ITG	15/0	1	16
WB9CHY	13/1	2	16

Limited Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO (Digital)	37/4	3	44
KC9FQV (Digital)	21/4	7	32

QRO Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/10	114	174
NA9A	12	30	42

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
AB9OC	Brad Folkens
KC9LTZ	Sara Folkens *
KC9MWT	Loy Fuller
KB9JTE	Ronald Heath
N9GRB	Ken Majerus
NE9G	Dan Samaras
W9DMW	Donald Wondolkowski

Loy, KC9MWT, has changed his call to K9LOY since joining. Last month I listed Michael Carpenter's call incorrectly. The correct call is KC9MTT.

Adventure Race Volunteers Needed

By Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

The FRRL along with our ARES friends will be supporting an "Adventure Race" held by the Oswegoland Park District on April 12th. We need volunteers to staff 5 stations and will be planning for two shifts but the info on duration is a bit sketchy. We will also want to run a second SAG vehicle for the bike part of the event. (I'll be running the first).

As it stands right now we will report to Hudson Crossing Park at 5:30 run a 6am to 12 noon and an 11am to? shift. As more info becomes available I will post it on the web and ask for it to be announced on the repeater.

Please contact Phil at philvanh@gmail.com to get on the mailing list for the most up-to-date info.

You can contact me at ec at frrl.org with questions.

73, Bart

2008 MS Walk Event Volunteers

By Michelle Powell, KC9HDB

The 2008 MS Walk will take place on Sunday May 4th, 2008 at Pottawatomie Park, 8 North Ave. in St. Charles.

We will be looking for 10 to 12 volunteers to volunteer at the MS Walk in the Ham Radio Communication aspect of the event. The volunteers would need to arrive at 8:00a.m. at the Pottawatomie Park main entrance. The walk begins at 9:00a.m. and is completed by 1:00 or 2:00pm in the afternoon (depending on the weather). You would be assigned to 1 of 3 stations (there are usually 3 people per station) and work with each other to communicate any needs of the walkers or needs of the station (water, fruit, etc) to the Start/Finish line station. We have sag vehicles that can transport items from one station to another, or be there to assist someone who cannot finish the race by giving them a ride back.

We are able to cover "shifts" if necessary - for example if someone would like to volunteer for a few hours, instead of being there for the entire event, that is possible. Please contact Michelle Powell (KC9HDB) if you would like to participate. You receive a T-Shirt compliments of the MS Walk, and they always have a terrific assortments of food available, such as fruit, donuts, bagels, etc in the morning, then they cookout for lunch, serving hot dogs and hamburgers. There is music to entertain at the Start/Finish line as well.

Feel free to participate by walking in the MS Walk as well. It is a 7-mile course that runs along the Fox River. You can register as either a volunteer or as a walker by visiting www.msillinois.org. Click on "2008 Walk MS".

Contact Michelle Powell (KC9HDB) to register specifically for Ham Radio Communications volunteer via email: michelled1970@hotmail.com or call 630-643-4727 prior to Saturday May 3rd, 2008. Michelle will also be in attendance at the upcoming Club Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 8th where you can register as well.

April Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

If I can't attend the meeting because of a business trip, I will arrange for a 28 minute edited version of the Scarborough Reef 2007 Dxpedition video to be shown. If I can attend the meeting, I am planning to do a live demonstration of the now legal SkyCommand using a Kenwod TS2000 and the D7AG portable. I will have a Buddipole antenna inside the meeting room, hopefully with some modifications for operation lower than 40 meters.

73,

Dick, AH6EZ

Field Day 2008

By Charles Penninger, KC9DAO.

Hello All,

It's time to start thinking about "FIELD DAY 2008". This year, I will again call on Greg, N9CHA, and Dick, AH6EZ to help with the planning. We will be trying a new site for 2008, the FPO lodge in Sugar Grove. The new site, which is not far from Jericho Park (our old site), is very close to Waubensee Community College and offers some new advantages. As we work out the details, I'll be sharing them with you. At this time, everything is open to change... or may stay the same. As we do our planning, I'll communicate what gets "locked in stone".

I would like to share a little of our philosophy about our field day. Many purists would want us to have each station set up as they wish, without any regard to other stations in the group. They may argue that in an actual emergency that's how it would work. And if you were to head out on your own to help in an emergency that could indeed be how it would work. However, we as a club are learning how to deploy a multi-station emergency setup, and that takes leadership and planning so that all bands and modes can be effective.

What we are asking an individual to give up is only their choice of location and antenna. With that said, we also wish to focus on having a fun, educational, and social event and to try to place as high in the contest as we can.

The venue we have adopted may not be for everyone, and I encourage those hams to find their own site and create their own experience.

But if you do, plan on coming to our lunch on Saturday and tell us about your site. One of the highlights of our field day event is the food that has been prepared by Becky, KB9UBU and her staff. We will be asking her to join the group again this year.

Let the fun begin!!

Thank you,

Charles Penninger, KC9DAO.
Chair, FIELD DAY 2008



The Get On The Air station at Field Day, 2007

FRRL Linux SIG Meets

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

On Saturday, March 29, 2008, Mike, K9FE, hosted the second meeting of the FRRL Linux SIG (Special Interest Group). The meeting had a total of nine FRRL members present. This month's topic was running software written for MS Windows™ on Linux based machines. Mike demonstrated several programs running under WINE, a Windows environment for Linux..

The schedule for SIG meetings is still in flux, so watch for announcements. Anyone interested in Linux or computer systems in general is welcome to attend.

New Meeting Format is “Hands-On”

By Tom Davis, WB9CHY

Over sixty FRRL members and a guests attended the club meeting held at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora on Tuesday, March 11. This meeting marked the first in what will hopefully prove to be a more hands-on format at our meetings.

The meeting offered a PL-259 connector installation session hosted by Mike, K9FE (pictured below); a demonstration of PSK31 software by John, AG9D and Bill, NF9D; and a demonstration of various DF antennas and off-set attenuators by Dick, AH6EZ. These sessions were followed by the main program, which expanded on the direction finding session with live demonstrations of transmitter hunting.



Attendees at the March FRRL meeting view the connector installation session conducted by Mike, K9FE.

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

Mailing Address:

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info@frrl.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

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Vice President

Charles Penninger,
KC9DAO

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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, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 1
 FRRL Meeting..... 8
 YL Group Meeting..... 12
 Adventure Race 12

May, 2008

MS Walk 4
 FRRL Board Meeting 6
 FRRL Meeting..... 13
 VE Session 20

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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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.