



Arc Over

April, 2011

Fox River Radio
League
PO Box 673
Batavia, IL
60510-0673

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

It has been quite a month since our last newsletter. In case you missed the meeting or the website announcement, Bill Muhr, NF9D is the new ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Kane County. When you see him, be sure to congratulate him. Positions like these represent a high level of commitment to the service and we as a whole are lucky to have individuals willing to take on these often challenging roles. If you reside in Kane County and have some extra time, or a desire to get involved in the public service side of amateur radio, let Bill know, I'm sure he'd like your help.

On Saturday March 19th nine intrepid members participated in our Cheap Yagi antenna class which was held at Rasmussen College. Specifically we built dual band antennas for 2/440 LEO (low earth orbit) satellite use. Everyone seemed to have a great time with the project. Satellite operation is another interesting facet of our hobby, and I hope we have some new operators on the birds.

April 12th is the 50th Anniversary of Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin's launch into space marking the beginning of human spaceflight. Fifty years ago his flight was a frightening thought and another in a string of embarrassments for America. Today, the world is a different place and to celebrate this historic occasion, the Cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station will switch on ARISSat-1 (now scheduled for full deployment in space during a Russian spacewalk in July) hooked up to the spare external ISS antennas to send a special message for this historic anniversary. You should be able to copy the transmission on 145.950 FM. Check the AMSAT website or the ARISSat-1 website for up to date information and how you can obtain a special certificate. What a perfect way to use those cheap yagi's!

Another round of thanks to the members attending the work day at Penninger Radio on March 26th. Harry was kind enough to take this over from me; I double booked myself for both the work day and a Spring Break trip with my son. Sorry guys but I picked the trip. Things got cleaned up and organized which was a long overdue task. Much of the equipment is available for member use with Board approval; all we ask is that you put it back in a neat and orderly manner.

I've never been one for "spring cleaning" but I seem to have accumulated a lot of stuff over the years. I started going through a lot of it in an effort to better organize it and in the end re-store the same junk in a different configuration. I soon realized that I just did not need a lot of it anymore. As we go through life many times our situations change and maybe I just came to the point where I was able to realize that I just would not have a use for much of this stuff anymore. I ended up putting a lot of it on eBay. The results have been that I am about 2/3's of the way to an FT-817 or maybe an ID-880, who knows, the point though is that converting the old stuff you don't need into something you can use is way better than digging into your pocket for more cash. Try it some time you may be surprised what you can do.

As we move through Spring and head into Summer we look forward to many events such as Radio in the Park, Field Day, Cougars Night and many others, including some public service type things which I am sure will come along.

Hey, all of you Techs....don't forget the General Upgrade Classes start on April 9th at Rasmussen College! Eric AB9OS is putting on another excellent session. Now is the time to get that General ticket!

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation
Held at St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL**

Meeting Minutes March 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 PM by John Spasojevich AG9D– President with 62 attendees.

- John AG9D welcomed all to the March meeting, and asked that each attendee introduce him/herself.
- **Secretary's Report:** John AG9D announced that the meeting minutes for the February 8, 2011 Regular Meeting are available in *ArcOver* on the FRRL website. Harry K9DXA motioned to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Jeff N9JZN. The motion carried.
- **Treasurers Report:** John AG9D announced that the particulars of the Treasurer's Report was available directly from Dean KC9EOQ on request from any FRRL member.

- **Announcements:** The following announcements and presentations were made by John AG9D:
 - A certificate recognizing his special effort for providing generator support was presented to Orven Erickson.
 - James N9XP was presented a certificate recognizing his service on the Repeater Board.
 - Ken N9WCX received a certificate recognizing his service on the Nominating Committee and as Chairman of the Cougars Night event.
 - Bill NF9D has been named the new Kane County ARES Emergency Coordinator.
 - A LEO Satellite Antenna Building Session will be conducted on Saturday, March 19th at Rasmussen College from 9 AM to noon.
 - A volunteer work day to organize and inventory club property will be held on Saturday, March 26th at Penninger Radio, 915 Atlantic Drive, West Chicago beginning at 9 AM.
 - A Severe Weather Seminar will be conducted by Tom Skilling of WGN-TV at Fermilab in Batavia on Saturday, April 30th at noon and again at 6 PM. Visit <http://www.asktom.org> for details. (This information was provided by Paul W9DWP.)
 - Kent W9NDW won the evening door prize, "The ARRL Satellite Handbook."

- **Committee Reports**
 - **Cougars Night** – Ken N9CWX reported that the Cougars Night club event will be the July 15th Cougars baseball game, which commences at 7:30 PM. He has tickets available for this game. John AG9D noted that FRRL Life Members receive one free ticket.
 - **Education** – Eric AB9OS reported that the General Class Upgrade Sessions will be held beginning Saturday, April 9 and continuing on subsequent Saturdays through May 14.
 - **Field Day** – Harry K9DXA reported that he and Mike K9FE are working together on Field Day arrangements. The site for this year's event will be Johnson's Mound. There will be no cabin or pavilion. Grills will be used to prepare a basic menu of hamburgers and hot dogs. Mike urged that all Field day attendees work a station.
 - **Hamfest** – Jere KA0KPO reported on the preparations for the FRRL Hamfest to be held on Sunday, July 10th. The Hamfest will be held at the same site, Aurora Central Catholic High School, and cost to the club as last year,. Jere emphasized that the Hamfest is a major fundraiser for the club and participation by members is especially important. He has five tickets allocated to each member at \$6 each. Members should obtain their tickets from him. Jere needs volunteers to assist at the Hamfest site the evening before and the morning of the event. He also needs a second talk-in assistant and several persons to assist with gate ticket sales. Volunteers should come forward and contact Jere as soon as possible because he must know who he can count on to help.
 - **Nets:** Dawn KC9LQS reported that a new net has been initiated. It meets at 1 PM on Friday afternoons on the FRRL 2m, 147.210 MHz. repeater.

 - **Newsletter** - Tobi K9TCD asked that articles for the newsletter be sent to her by the 20th of each month.
 - **Public Relations** – Dawn KC9LQS reported that she has prepared a press release covering James KC9RVP as "Young Ham of the Year." This press release has been sent to area newspapers. Dawn asked to be informed if any member observes a FRRL announcement in the media.
 - **Radio in the Park** - Bill NF9D reported that there will be two Radio in the Park events this year. The first event is scheduled for May 21 and the second for August 13. The exact sites are under investigation. Bill asked members to please suggest activities for these two events.
 - **Repeaters** – Dick AH6EZ reported that the antenna at the club UHF repeater had not yet been replaced. Kermit W9XA is making arrangements to accomplish this.
 - **VE Team** – Doug W9RD reported that an license examination session will be conducted next Tuesday evening, March 15th, 7:30 PM, at St. Rita of Cascia Church. No advance registration is required, but applicants must bring their current license (if they have one), a photocopy of it, some form of photo identification, and the fee of \$15.00. (John AG9D also noted that Dawn KC9LQS is now a certified VE.)

Old Business

- **SciTech Museum Project** – Dick AH6EZ reviewed that status of this on-going project. The Working Group is meeting every two weeks with the SciTech Executive Director. Dick noted that the FRRL will be providing operators and expertise to support this project. In addition to the main amateur radio station, several kiosks with interactive displays are envisioned to demonstrate these aspects of amateur radio: (1) the Morse code, (2) the Sights and Sounds of Radio, (3) World and U.S. Maps, (4) Amateur Satellites and the International Space Station, (5) Listening to distant stations, e.g., DX beacons. Dick asked that anyone with other ideas to please send them to him.

New Business

- **Pending Legislation affecting Amateur Radio (HR 607)** - Kermit W9XA reviewed the potential negative ramifications of pending legislation (HR 607) on the Amateur Radio Service in the paired bands 420-440 MHz and 450-470 MHz. He asked that all FRRL members send a letter opposing this bill as soon as possible to their Congressional Representatives. Kermit reviewed the resources available on the ARRL website for composing such a letter and expeditiously delivering this letter to their Representative. He emphasized that letters of opposition be sent to the ARRL lobbyist, John Chwat, and not directly to the Representative. One effective technique he suggested was to (1) write the letter, (2) **sign the letter**, (3) scan the letter into a PDF or Word file, and (4) E-mail the **signed letter file** to arrl@chwatco.com. Complete details of the bill and explicit instructions for composing and communicating letters of opposition can be found at the ARRL website page <http://www.arrl.org/hr-607> and associated links.

Following up on Kermit's presentation, Dick W9GIG addressed the group further emphasizing and elaborating on the threat posed by HR 607. He also illustrated other threats to amateur radio including (1) further potential infringement on frequency allocations and (2) antenna limitations. Dick noted that there is a sea change occurring in the production of radio communication equipment with China soon superceding Japan as the primary country manufacturing equipment.

Kermit pointed to detrimental changes occurring at the FCC with the downsizing of staff dedicated to amateur radio matters. Harry K9DXA emphasized the need for hams to become proactive in legislative and regulatory matters.

Randolph W9HE noted that companies like LightSquared are aggressively deploying nationwide 4G broadband wireless and satellite services with large spectrum requirements and high power emissions, which are also a potential threat to other radio services including amateur radio.

- **HF receiving site in Chicago** - Dick AH6EZ reported that the FRRL had received an inquiry from a start-up Israel-based company, Sky-Feed, that wants to deploy an HF receiving site in Illinois. Information received from Sky-Feed indicates that their business involves communication support for the maritime industry. Specifically, they are seeking an existing or available site for a tower, a log-periodic HF beam, and a broadband Internet connection. Additionally, they need someone to act as site caretaker. They have indicated that they are willing to compensate the caretaker at \$800 - \$1000 per month plus other perks. Dick suggested that their needs would most likely be met by someone with farmland, and he plans to communicate this inquiry to the Dekalb County Amateur Radio Club. Dick stated that, at this time, information about Sky-Feed is sketchy and their website is nascent. Several attendees questioned the credibility of the company and its proposal and felt that any further investigation warrants circumspection.
- **Facebook and Twitter Accounts** - Bill NF9D reported that he has established a FRRL Facebook page and a Twitter account. Bill will maintain these accounts. Dawn KC9LQS and Debby KC9SUT will act as Moderators of the Facebook page. Bill is preparing an "Introduction to Social Media" for those unfamiliar with this topic. He may submit this article for inclusion in *ArcOver*.
- **Membership Survey** – Dawn KC9LQS introduced a comprehensive survey of all FRRL members. This survey seeks to identify members' activities and interests and to determine to how well the FRRL is presently meeting its members' needs. Dawn emphasized the importance of this survey, which will help guide the Board of Directors in planning the future programs and activities of the club. To encourage participation, each member who returns a completed survey will be entered into a raffle. The raffle prizes include a one year FRRL membership, a ticket to the annual Awards Banquet, and a ticket to the Cougars Night event. The survey was distributed to all attendees and Dawn asked that completed surveys be returned directly to her. Dawn also acknowledged Chris KC9BKS for providing database resources for the survey.
- **Member Announcements** – Eric AB9OS reminded that participants in the "Bill Erickson FRRL HF Challenge" should submit their scores via E-mail to him

(Continued on page 5)

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-March 2011

By Eric Needles AB9OS

Participation in the HF Challenge is building, and from the scores it seems the bands are opening up. Last year we missed Maurice N4LZ in the challenge, but now he is with us again and says it's "good to be back and I can already tell that 2011 is going to be a good year." And in the spirit of just getting on HF and working Maurice says "I'm still using Hamsticks on my van in the driveway with the radio and small amp in the garage." That's the spirit Maurice, good to have you back.

When Jeff k9BQL is not flying around the world he has found time to work some good ones including Sable Is.(CY0), Revillagigedo Is.(4A4A; XF4), Cameroon(TJ9), Burkina Faso(XT2), South Orkney Is.(VP8ORK), Guam(KH2), and Sov. Military Order of Malta(1A0KM). Jeff reports "bands have been alive!!! 10 and 12 meters moving well with some good stuff." Nice work Jeff.

Ron KC9SNI is in the limited category, single band...10 meters! Ron tells us "I'm working the only HF band for which I am presently equipped: 10m. I'm using my little 25W Radio Shack HTX-100 that I got from Dave K9WDB a few months ago. It's amazing what you can do with low power and an ordinary dipole when the skip's working!" Yes it is Ron, good job.

Last year's leader for the QRO category, Dick AH6EZ, notes "The Russian contest is productive. Just got EX and EY. S21 or VU4 would be all time new country but don't have him yet." It's hard to believe that there is a country out there that Dick has never worked! And finally Larry K9ARZ's recent catches include Sudan, Mongolia, Philippines, China, Taiwan, Korea, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and a number of stations in Antarctica.

Remember, to get involved all you need to do is just e-mail your category and scores to challenge@frrl.org by the 15th of the month and you are in. Everyone who participates receives a great looking certificate at

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9MMS-CW	50	9	130	189
K9BQL-CW	34	5	99	138
NF9D-QRP	39	4	46	89
W9IV-QRP	24	4	49	77
N5EP-CW	25	2	5	32
KC9SNI-10m	1		16	17
K9LGE-Digital	5			5
AB9OS-CW	2			2

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	10	189	249
K9ARZ	50	8	189	247
N4LZ	30	1	101	132
KC9DAO	28	4	75	107
NA9A	13	0	64	77

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	49	10	100	159
K9FBI	35	6	54	95
K9TCD	33	4	54	91
K9IH	14	3	21	38
WB9CHY	30	3	2	35

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ			30
W9DTR			27
N5EP	21	1	22
K9IH			16
NA9A	7	1	8
AB9OS	2		2

April Program Notes

The April program will be an overview of HF Propagation software and hopefully a peek at where we are now and where we are headed with this sun spot cycle.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

CALL	NAME
W9TTS	Ted Southworth
KC9TWP	Barb Albright
KC9TPL	Luke Albright

Minutes (Continued from page 3)

by the 15th of each month for inclusion in the FRRL newsletter, *ArcOver*.

Dean KC9EOQ announced that he had FRRL 2011 Rosters available for distribution.

Harry K9DXA reminded that the next Software-Defined Radio (SDR) SIG group meeting would be held Saturday, March 12th from 9 AM to noon at Rasmussen College.

Carol WD9CNW announced that she had raffle tickets available for the Ethel Smith-K4LMB Memorial Scholarship and the Mary-Lou Brown-NM7N Memorial Scholarship. These scholarships are sponsored by the Young Ladies Radio League. Each ticket costs \$1 and the drawing will be held July 23, 2011. Participants need not be present to win.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Randolph W9HE and seconded by several. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
 Ron Jahr KC9SNI
 FRRL Secretary

Pending Legislation

HR607

If you have not already sent a letter to your congressman regarding HR 607, pending federal legislation that could detrimentally affect amateur radio operations, below is a link to download the sample letter provided by the ARRL. You may customize it or send it as is. It is easy to mail, fax, or email your letter. Please keep in mind that the letter should not be sent directly to the congressman. The ARRL has a lobbyist that is able to hand deliver all the letters to the right people to ensure that they will be read and counted.

<http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>

By US Mail—Send to: John Chwat, 625 Slaters Lane, Suite 103, Alexandria, VA 22314

By Fax - Send to: 703-684-7594

By email send **signed** letter to: arrl@chwatco.com

HB1390

Illinois House bill 1390 addresses the codification of an existing FCC ruling in Illinois statute, to benefit hams. Currently Illinois is not following PRB-1 issued in 1985. Below is a synopsis and a link to further information, should you decide to contact your state legislator to encourage passage of the bill.

Amends the Illinois Municipal Code. Provides that a municipality shall not adopt or enforce an ordinance or resolution after the effective date of the amendatory Act that affects the placement, screening, or height of antennas or support structures that are used for amateur radio communications unless the ordinance or resolution: (i) has a reasonable and clearly defined aesthetic, public health, or safety objective and represents the minimum practical regulation that is necessary to accomplish the objectives; and (ii) reasonably accommodates amateur radio communications. Limits home rule powers.

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/BillsStatus.asp?DocTypeID=HB&DocNum=1390&GAID=11&SessionID=84&LegID=57892>

For a sample letter to send to your state representative, please see the link on FRRL.org.

Ham What?

By Jerry Hymen KA9VMD

Rarely, in my travels providing technical services, do I encounter someone who's never heard of Amateur Radio Operators, or Hams. So I was surprised when an adult responded with a puzzled look and "a what" about the Licensed Amateur Radio Operator Service. Since I was on my way to complete an urgent task, I had only a half minute, at best, to establish what Hams do and how and why.

I was able to accomplish this in the allotted time, but a bit awkwardly, since I had no prepared speech on this topic. This is why we need to mentally prepare ourselves with a short talk, with just enough details to interest, not overwhelm the non-technical general public. And we need to do this often.

Let's take on a new task, as a club, to be able to give a speech lasting no more than 30 seconds which generalizes the purpose, community and abilities of the worldwide amateur community. We can adopt a common, shared talk, or create our own unique tale of our hobby's character. A good time to practice will be at our next meeting's introductions. Remember, the goal is to make the speech interesting enough to be informative, but not bewilder a non-technical stranger - all within a half minute or less. Think of parcel delivery people; we always speak with them, but they're gone within the time it takes to sign our name. Let's see if we can open more ears to the importance of the Amateur Radio Service, one pair at a time.

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(c)(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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time,

a business portion and a program of interest.

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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora at 7:30 PM. A special session is held at the club's hamfest, usually in July each year. 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 \$15.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

The next exam session is scheduled for May 17, 2011 at St. Rita of Cascia church. Please see the frrl.org website for details.

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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FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ST. RITA OF CASCIA IN AURORA, IL, BUT LOCATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR THE ADDRESS AND A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION.
<http://www.frrl.org>

Send Address Corrections to:
Fox River Radio League, Inc.
3023 Scenicwood Lane.
Woodridge, IL 60517

FRRL Event Calendar

April, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting 5
FRRL Meeting 12
SDR SIG 16

May, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting 3
FRRL Meeting 10
VE Session 17

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 the 20th day of each month for the next month's newsletter. Articles can be sent by email to arc-over@frri.org or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

Prior permission is required to republish original ArcOver material.

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—147.225 Mhz (-6.0 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
147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone

- Weekly ARES/Skywarn Net—Wed. Eve. at 6:30 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.
- Monthly Simplex Net—4th Tues following weekly FRRL Net on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.