



Arc Over

Fox River Radio League
PO Box 673
Batavia, IL
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May, 2006

President's Traffic

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The month of May is always a favorite for me because it means a pilgrimage to Dayton to see the latest and greatest. It is also the beginning of my motorcycle riding season. I hope that you also have activities to look forward to. We all can look forward to our fun club operating event, the Mid-American Canoe Race (June 4). This year Bob and Mary Jo Niels will be leading the effort. Thank You!

Another aspect of this time of year for me is thinking about and getting ready for Field Day (June 24–26). Contact your favorite band captain and volunteer to help them setup, operate, log, or shutdown. Remember if you do not have an HF license now, this is a great chance to try out the HF bands.

Dick Illman, AH6EZ
FRRL President

May Program Notes

The May meeting will explore the fun and excitement of Fox Hunting. A hidden transmitter will be placed somewhere on the Prisco Community Center grounds and transmit a random 2 meter signal for you to find! Do you have a favorite Fox Hunting device? Bring it along with your 2 meter HT! We will be constructing 3 kits called "The Searcher" which will be used during the event. Additional Fox Hunting techniques will also be demonstrated including; an air attenuator, body attenuation, the use of a yagi and in-line attenuator, and more. This instructional program is designed to prepare you for a larger fox hunt which will be scheduled later this summer.

73, Greg N9CHA

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

What sort of opportunities are there in the HF Challenge?

Good question! On the surface it's a contest. Simply work as many countries, states and Canadian provinces as you can. Counting each only once for points and each 10 minute or longer QSO as a rag chew for that particular entity. Simple enough. Is it anything else? There is the personal challenge I talked about last time, setting a goal for yourself and working to achieve it. What else is this Challenge?

While cleaning up the shack I came across the ARRL Ham Desktop Reference (a small book that came bundled with something else I had purchased), which contains beam headings, country prefixes, Q codes, zone maps and on the back cover something I don't ever recall hearing much about: **The Amateur's Code**. Written in 1928 by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA one of the principals is: "A Radio Amateur is FRIENDLY.....slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit." There are other parts of the amateur's code but this one seems particularly fitting. If you operate digital modes as I do it seems more often than not you are offering advice to the ham on the other end, answering questions like "is my signal too wide" or "do you think I have this set up right" I hear this more on digital than on any other operating mode. These questions come not only from new hams but from the 80 year old ham that just bought a computer for the first time. The OM that isn't quite sure he has all the cables in the right places even though he just finished aligning his old vintage station. Kindly assistance and cooperation between people who don't know a thing about each other is part of the beauty of the hobby, an opportunity that presents itself during participation in the HF Challenge.

Slow progress this reporting period. Dick, AH6EZ is the first to break 200 Q's. Some of his contacts: TY-Benin (on the ARRL most needed list) as well as C9 - Mozambique, C5-Gambia, and a host of others. Maurice, W4CEO and Jack, K9JE traveled down to St. Lucia (J6) again and participated in the CQ WPX Contest using the call J6DX and Maurice reported, "For the contest we did very well: 6,690 QSOs for over 22,000,000 Pts. Jack, K9JE and myself were on 15 Meters most of the time where we had over 3,000 QSOs." Good Job Guys! During their off time Maurice as J68MS worked Joe - NA9A, Greg - N9CHA, Denny - W8HI, and Alan - W9AN. Also, I worked Keith, N9YA but that was during the contest as J6DX."

All in all a good month, keep looking for opportunities!

This month's scores are on Page 5.

New Life Members Honored

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Recognizing and thanking long-term members for their contributions to the hobby has always been an important part of amateur radio. That's why our club By-Laws contain a provision for life memberships. The requirements are that you must have been a ham for at least 50 years and have been a club member for the last 10 years.

At the April meeting, the following experienced hams who have greatly contributed to our hobby and our club over many years were presented certificates that officially indicate that they have each achieved life membership in the club. (Photo on the frrl.org web site.)

- Benny, W9CZA, licensed in 1946, member since 1954.
- Warren, W9IH, licensed in 1954, member since 1989.
- Bob, K9EUI, licensed in 1954, member since 1954.
- Lou, K9LU, licensed in 1956, member since 1957.

When you get the chance, shake their hand and get them to talk about the good old days. You will learn a great deal and come away with a new appreciation of what these four gentlemen have contributed to amateur radio and to the FRRL.

FRRL Cougars Night Approaching

Let's have a ball (game)! The FRRL is going to the ballpark 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.

NIARC Repeater Changes Pending

By: Bob Roehrig, K9EUI

Some time this summer the NIARC repeater in Batavia (W9ZGP) will be undergoing some changes. This repeater has been continuously on the air from Batavia since around 1970, mostly from its present location at the water tower near Randall Road.

The water tower is being replaced by a new one, located behind the West side fire station on Main Street, across from the high school. Eventually, the old tower will come down, so the repeater will have to be moved.

Thanks to the generosity of N9FNS, who operates the Yorkville repeater, NIARC now has a like-new Vertex VXR-5000 commercial grade repeater which will replace the old patched-together component system we now use.

To further the improvements, NIARC has just obtained permission from the Illinois Repeater Association to switch to a standard frequency pair of 147.66 / 147.06 MHz. In addition, it has been decreed that all repeaters must use sub-audible tone access (otherwise known as "PL"). NIARC will use the same tones as the FOX repeater (103.5 Hz).

Just when these changes will take place is not definite, mostly due to red tape with the city involving use of the new tower location. The new equipment may be put on the air before the physical move, however.

In any event, if one day you try and access the repeater and don't hear it on 146.58, please be sure you are transmitting 103.5 PL tone and listen on 147.06.

Bob Roehrig, K9EUI

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 – April, 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/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	-	-	47
N9CHA	-	-	19
K9FBI	-	-	17
K9IH	-	-	16
K9COE	-	-	14
AH6EZ	-	-	11
AL9A	-	-	2
NA9A	-	-	2

Operator Class	States/ Prov.	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	47/9	100	156
K9JE	42/1	112	155
K9FBI	50/3	72	125
N9YA	36/9	79	124
N9CHA	44/7	41	92
KB9YSI	38/5	37	80
K9IH	11/4	3	18

Limited Class	States/ Prov.	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ	46/8	94	148
K9COE (Digital)	50/8	64	122

QRO Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/10	150	210
W4CEO	39/3	87	129
NA9A	19/4	81	104
AL9A	50/6	29	85
J68MS	38/5	34	77

Proposed By-Laws change to simplify new membership processes.

The following proposed change to the FRRL By-Laws was discussed at the April Club meeting, and will be voted on at the May meeting. (By-Laws changes are required to be published in the ArcOver prior to final approval.)

The existing By-Laws read as follows:

Article III - Membership

Section 4. Persons wishing to join the FRRL for the first time, or an individual or family whose membership has been lapsed more than one year, shall first be listed in the earliest following FRRL newsletter. Said prospective members shall be admitted to membership at the second regular monthly membership meeting following publication. Prospective members shall immediately enjoy all membership privileges except voting.

The proposed By-Law Section would read as follows:

Article III - Membership

Section 4. Persons wishing to join the FRRL for the first time, or an individual or family whose membership has been lapsed more than one year, shall first be listed in the earliest following FRRL newsletter. Prospective members shall immediately enjoy all membership privileges except the right to participate in counted or balloted votes, which shall be delayed two months from membership application receipt date.

Coming Events:

The MS Walk is Sunday, May 7. (Mike Urso)

The next regular VE exam session is Tuesday, May 16, at 7:30 pm at the Prisco Center.

The Mid-American Canoe Race is Sunday, June 4. (Bob & Mary Jo Niels)

ARRL Field Day is June 24—26. (Denny Barfuss)

The FRRL Cougars Game evening is July 28. (Greg Braun)

We welcome your participation in any or all of these events. Please contact the event chairs for more information.

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

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60510-0673

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info@frrl.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

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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

May, 2006

FRRL Board Meeting..... 2
MS Walk..... 7
FRRL Meeting..... 9
VE Testing 16

June, 2006

Canoe Race 4
FRRL Board Meeting..... 6
FRRL Meeting..... 13
Field Day 24-26

FRRL Shack Photo of the Month



Tom's Drake twins and a nifty power/antenna management system (WB9CHY).

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 arccover@fril.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 (See page 3)

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.