



# Arc Over

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

May, 2007

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## President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

A new first for our club, we now have over 160 dues paying hams! We're continuing to grow because of the efforts of so many volunteers helping with programs, community service activities, club administration and just plain having fun at the meetings and on the air. It's great to hear and meet so many new and returning hams.

On Tuesday night, the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, our first "Tech Net" was held concurrent to the regular check-in net. Adam KC9ITG our clubs' Net Manager and our net control operators decided to try an experiment. They decided to poll the membership using the FRRL Yahoo Groups polling feature to see what was of greatest interest to them. Over 50 votes were cast, with the topic of HF Antennas and Tuners coming out on top. Eric KB9IDT, net control for the first-ever event, did a fantastic job of soliciting questions. Several antenna issues were discussed. Thanks go to Dick AH6EZ for lending his on-air assistance as an excellent source of answers and comments.

Field Day (June 23-24) plans are continuing to be made by Charles KC9DAO and his team. The first band captain meeting was held to discuss antennas, rigs and other equipment and operating procedures. This year our club will operate 8A using the club call W9NE. The GOTA station will use the call W9CEQ. The power source has been secured from the City of Aurora and the venue is set, Jericho Lake Park, in Montgomery. The team is planning on having over 100 of our club members and guests participate. This event has steadily grown over the past years, and continues to be the highlight of the summer.

The month of May means a trip to Dayton for many of our members. This annual pilgrimage is a lot of fun. This year our D-Star Repeater team, headed up by Kermit W9XA and Mark WB9QZB will be in attendance and participate in an informational forum highlighting this new and exciting communication system. There have been a growing number of hams using our D-Star repeater on 442.100. The system is working well. To find out more about our digital repeater, please attend our monthly meetings and visit with the D-Star team.

I had the pleasure to sit in with the General Upgrade class on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of April. It was great to see Eric KB9IDT in action. He's a great teacher and motivator. The class members actively participate by asking questions regarding the material and Eric does an excellent job fielding the answers. The schedule for the classes can be found on our web site.

Did you have a chance to read the excellent article about the Boulder Hill Elementary School Radio Club in the May issue of QST? It's a great article written by Rosalie White K1STO about youth participation in ham radio. Our club Secretary, John K9COE is featured in the article! John continues to support the W9BHB ham club. The club is currently building Morse code keys and shortwave radios. Sound like fun? You bet!

73 Greg Braun N9CHA

**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 April 10, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 73 members present.  
Question of the Month: “What was your first HF antenna?”

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

Treasurer’s Report: Total Balance: \$25,300.00 (Cash/Savings = \$9,479.00 Certificates of Deposit = \$15,821.00)

Committee Reports:

Database: 154 paid members.

Membership: Mike, K9FBI has the 2007 Membership Roster available for hand out. Those not at the meeting will have their Rosters mailed to them.

Education Committee: Eric, KC9IDT has General Upgrade classes starting on April 14. Location: Batavia Public Library. Free for all to attend, bring current ARRL General Class book.

Public Relations: Kent W9NDW is working with the FD committee to publicize the event.

Field Day: Charles, KC9DAO reported all Band Captains have been identified. A meeting of the Band Captains took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April. Antenna and engineering concerns were discussed.

Hamfest: Dean, KC9EOQ announced the ticket policy. All members will receive 5 tickets now priced at \$6 each. Members are required to sell their tickets and turn in their \$30 to Dean. The price of admission at the gate is \$8.

Program Committee: Dick, AH6EZ program is “Antennas for You.” Dick will describe antenna fundamentals and how different designs can be adopted to your situation.

Next Gen : Tobi, KC9GDL is bringing the 2 meter net back on line starting Sunday night the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Future nets will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

Webmaster : Tom, WB9CHY asked the members for updates to event web pages.

Newsletter: Bill, KB9YSI reported the Arc Over ready for distribution.

VE's: Doug, W9RD Next VE session is May 15<sup>th</sup>.

MS Walk: Michelle, KC9HDB has a full sign-up list. The event is being held in St. Charles on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May.

Cougars Game: Ken, N9WCX has tickets available, \$10 each for the July 27<sup>th</sup> game.

Canoe Race: Dean, KC9EOQ announced there will be a race this year being sponsored by the YWCA of Aurora. More details will be available at the May meeting. The event is to run on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Meeting Minutes March 13, 2007

(Continued from page 2)

Reminder that the Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Prisco Center at 7:30PM all are welcome.

Jack, K9JE held the raffle for all those who wanted to participate.

Opportunity for comments from the floor: Craig, AB9IN announced a 10 meter net on Thursday nights and invited all to participate.

Greg, N9CHA read a complimentary email received from Dick, W9GIG regarding the 2 page article published in the May 2007 QST of the Boulder Hill Ham Club started by John, K9COE and Greg, N9CHA. The article was authored by Rosalie White, K1STO of the ARRL.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM

Break and program to follow

(Compiled from President meeting notes)

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## New Members

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Please welcome the following new members who joined the club recently:

Call	Name	Lic. Class
KR5WF	Wyatt Foad	Extra
KB9TWT	Philip Han	Tech
W9HE	Randolph Herber	Extra
KC9KTX	Harry Jones	General
K1NCH	Thomas Kinchus	Extra
N9HKH	David Morrison	General
KB9VSY	Bill Reed	General
KC9LHC	David Siles	General

Also, congratulations all of the recent upgrades to General Class. If you have upgraded recently, please remember to notify the database manager by email so that your club records can be updated.

## Can you hear me now?

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

All I could say was, "Wow! That's a lot of microphones!" My head was swiveling from side to side trying to take it all in. I looked over and saw Dean KC9EOQ, doing the same thing I was, focusing on one microphone after another. Then I heard, "Gee, that's neat!" from Bill KB9YSI.

The three of us slowly shuffled our way through what must be the most complete microphone collection in the country. Located in an unassuming warehouse, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of his Milwaukee sound equipment rental business, we found Bob Paquette and his collection of over 1000 specimens in his Microphone Museum.

Dean, Bill and myself drove to Milwaukee to attend the annual Superfest, a fun event hosted by Amateur Electronic Supply. We left early enough to meet up with Bob Paquette and get a private tour of his wonderful collection of old microphones, recording equipment, public address horns and amplifiers and early television cameras and studio equipment.

Years earlier I had met Mr. Paquette in a professional capacity and was introduced to his microphone collection. This was perhaps 1979, when Bob was still actively seeking additional apparatus to be included with his impressive collection. Since then, I had always wanted to return. At that time I was a college intern working in Racine in the field of industrial television. The company I was working for at the time hired his companies services to record a voice over track for a training film I was helping to make.

I called about a week before Superfest to see if the Museum might be open on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Paquette told me that I was in luck, he had just completed renovations and everything was back in order for visitors. As you begin your trek through the Museum, you are surrounded by early recording equipment. Movie house transcription machines, large PA horns, a television camera mounted to a movie crane, and lots of military patches and insignias. (Bob is a former U.S. Air Force enlistee.) This first room is perhaps 14 feet wide by 50 feet long. There were so many microphones and other recording equipment around, I thought this room was the beginning and end of the tour.

We spent perhaps 40 minutes in this first room, only to discover we had just seen a small percentage of the collection. Mr. Paquette slowly opened the door to an adjoining room, his "workshop" he called it. Wow, that's when we really began to understand the scale of it all. Everywhere we looked, on the floor, on benches, on shelves, even hanging from the ceiling was an enormous collection of everything and anything that was used in the radio, TV and recording industry.

It was while in the "workshop" where we were introduced to Mr. Paquette's amateur radio license. Dated 1952 was a novice license, WN9VAQ. Sure enough, for a short time, one year exactly, Mr. Paquette was a licensed amateur radio operator. When we asked him why he did not pursue the hobby, his only reply was, "...just not enough time."

The collection did not stop there. Now the three of us had been there for nearly an hour, when Mr. Paquette opened the door to the third and final room. There before us was a freshly carpeted room, perhaps 40 feet by 50 feet, with microphones of every shape, style, construction and purpose you could ever imagine.

The first microphone Mr. Paquette wanted to show us was his "1876 Bell Transmitter" which he proudly displayed. We continued walking around the room with Mr. Paquette enthusiastically picking up a microphone and describing when it was made, by whom, and what it was used for. He pointed out several microphones used prior to WWII, then showed us a model which the Germans had used during their propaganda rally's.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## May Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The last couple of FRRL programs have described your new HF privileges, even if you are a Technician licensee, what there is to do on HF even if you don't know CW, and how to squeeze an antenna into your lot with spouse and neighbor approval. The May program will show you how to get on the air with a clean signal and how to feel confident your signal is getting out. We will have a live demonstration of various SWR meters and antenna tuners, and how to set up the audio for your SSB transmitter. We will describe operating techniques for rag chews, and DX which require very different styles.

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## Canoe Race Scheduled for June 3

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

We are looking for someone to head up the club's participation in the Paddle the Fox Canoe Race to be held on Sunday June 3rd. If you have heard about this race, it is being sponsored by the Aurora YWCA and Aurora Township. It is a replacement for the Fox Valley Park District's annual race which has been cancelled due to construction products. This 6 mile race will begin in Batavia and end at the usual finish line in Aurora. I've contacted the YWCA and they were most excited to have us participate with communications. The first organizational meeting will be held Tuesday May 1st at 7:00pm at the Batavia VFW on Rt. 25 in Batavia.

This is the perfect opportunity to step up and volunteer your time for an FRRL activity.

Interested members, please contact me at my call @ arrl.net.

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## Can You Hear Me Now?

*(Continued from page 4)*

Microphones of every description, like those used for broadcasting the war reports from London, those used to entertain the troops, even microphones used aboard military aircraft, tanks and ships were on display.

For over 50 years, Bob Paquette has been locating, buying, and learning about microphone technology. Manufacturers include; Amperite, Astatic, Bell Labs, Collins Radio, E.F. Johnson, Electro-Voice, Frost Radio, Magnavox, Neumann, RCA, Western Electric, Shure Brothers, Sound Engineering Corp., and Universal Microphone to name but a few.

With a little gleam in his eye, Bob handed Dean an acoustic transducer... a spring steel fob attached between two electric magnets. Bob plugged the device into an audio amplifier and instructed Dean to "bite down on the fob and listen." With a little trepidation, Dean complied. "Oh my," he exclaimed, "there's sound coming out of my head... right out of the middle of my head!" Of course Bill and I had to try this. Sure

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Can You Hear Me Now?

(Continued from page 5)

enough, the transducer vibrated with the amplitude of the music Bob was playing and transferred that energy into our craniums. What an interesting experience that was.

The collection spans the earliest microphone development to about 1960. His wife Ruth encouraged Bob to gather all his resource materials and compile a book about the vast collection. In 1999, Mr. Paquette did in fact publish his book, "The History and Evolution of the Microphone." I'm proud to say that I own an autographed copy.

If you ever get to Milwaukee with a couple of extra hours to spend, you must visit the Microphone Museum. All you need do is call Mr. Paquette and arrange for a visit. The admission is free. [www.sssmilwaukee.com](http://www.sssmilwaukee.com) 414-645-1672.



Museum owner/curator Bob Paquette holds the 1876 Bell Transmitter..



An early code practice oscillator.



Dean, KC9EOQ, experiences sounds through the acoustic transducer.



Just a small part of the collection at the Microphone Museum.

## **Field Day 2007 Update**

By Charles Penninger – KC9DAO

As Greg points out in his monthly letter on Page 1, our planning for Field Day is rolling along. If you are interested in participating as an operator, I will have signup sheets available at the next meeting. We will also need people to assist with set-up and tear-down activities. Please contact me if you'd like to volunteer to help out.

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## **New Members**

Please welcome the following new members of the FRRL who have joined recently; Wyatt Foard, KR5WF, Phillip Han, KB9TWT, Randolph Herber, W9HE, Thomas Kinchus, K1NCH, David Morrison, N9HKH, Bill Reed, KB9VSY, and David Siles KC9LHE.

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## **The HF Challenge is heating up!**

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

Lots of activity is being reported in the Operator Class portion of the HF Challenge. Cyd, N9CV one of our newer Generals is really working hard and is in second place close behind Herb, W9DTR. Way to go Cyd!

Also welcome to Eric, KC9FQV another new General and a new entry this month, keep going, there is plenty of time.

Maurice, formerly W4CEQ, has changed his call to N4LZ. With a new short call we expect him to work even more DX than he has in the past.

Remember that the Operator class is where you can use any and all modes provided you use no more than 250 watts.

In the QRO class, 251 watts to legal limit, Joe, NA9A is looking for new action and he found it, another one on the "most wanted list" 9N7JO – Nepal. And they say you can't work DX at the bottom of the cycle.

Keep up the good work and keep those score reports coming in.

Check out the full score list on the next page or on the website at <http://www.frri.org/>.

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores— April, 2007

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

<b>Ragchew Class</b>	<b>States/Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
K9FE	-	-	41
W9DTR	-	-	37
N9YA	-	-	31
AH6EZ	-	-	12
KC9CHG	-	-	7
NA9A	-	-	5
WB9CHY	-	-	1

<b>Operator Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
W9DTR	45/8	81	134
N9CV	46/9	72	127
K9FE	44/11	68	123
K9CTD	36/3	45	84
N9YA	50/6	18	74
KB9YSI	15/3	7	25
KC9EOQ	4/0	20	24
WB9CHY	21/0	3	24
KC9CHG	19/0	0	19
KC9FQV	10/1	4	15

<b>Limited Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
K9ARZ— PSK	50/9	105	164

<b>QRO Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
AH6EZ	49/12	141	202
NA9A	18/3	174	195
N4LZ (W4CEQ)	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 July 8, 2007, at the FRRL Hamfest.

## 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.

## 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

## 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

**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

#### May, 2007

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

#### June, 2007

Fox River Canoe Race..... 3  
 FRRL Board Meeting ..... 5  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 12  
 Field Day ..... 23/24

### 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.

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 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.