



Arc Over

May, 2009

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

President's Traffic

By Mike Urso, K9FE

CQ FIELD DAY CQ FIELD DAY W9NE W9NE CQ FIELD DAY QRZ?

As I write this it is a nice day out for field day. Mid 50 degree temps, and rainy. We always talk about field day as the 4th full weekend of rain in June. Well we know that is not true simply because I don't think it really rains every weekend in June. We have had some very wet field days however. Field day is quote NOT A CONTEST. According to the ARRL the Field Day exercise is to be a test of emergency communications.

For example, if your entire home town is incommunicado using normal communication methods, can you or your local amateur radio group set up an impromptu emergency station to be able to communicate to other locales in the country to pass health and welfare traffic or emergency traffic? And the goal is to prove that using different modes, frequencies and antennas the amateur community can come through with the needed communications to other stations around the country. All that being said, the thrill of competition makes field day the most popular radio event of the year. The plus to the event: we get to play radio for up to 24 hours straight OR you get to hang out with other hams and shoot the breeze with others of same mind OR you have a fantastic weekend of friends, family, and food. Actually we usually get a mixture of all three. The radio time is important for many. Many of us do not have a really usable home radio shack, sometimes, because of location and sometimes just personal choice.

Well at field day you can get to operate the radios you may have read about and seen pictures of, but never had the opportunity to key the microphone or pound the brass. You have the chance to watch and assist some of the club's top operators. Every year we see different antennas. One of our favorites in past years was the infamous AH6EZ 160 meter E-H antenna, or as some of us call it, the SCUD missile. This is one strange looking antenna with somewhat questionable physics, yet it worked. If you had not seen this antenna you were able to find a picture on our website in the field day pictures in earlier years. I am sure Dick would be glad to show us some of his pictures. Then there is the venerable HyGain HyTower that Dorwin K9DHK brings. The HyTower is a multi band 53 foot vertical! This antenna was the best vertical on the market (in the pre-SteppIR time, the SteppIR has set a new standard for verticals). There are antennas that look like an umbrella frame, known as a Spider Beam and the wire one held up by a crossed spreader frame called a Moxin. AH6EZ has built and used both of these at previous field day events. Who knows what he will use this year. You never can tell when one of the antennas you see will give you an idea of what you can use in your station. It could be the simplicity of the dipole that excites you to build your own.

Eric, AB9OS, is this year's field day chair. The location is Johnson's Mound. The FRRL used this site many years ago and it was notably not a favorite. That was then and not now. There have been improvements to shelters, parking lots added, and tree growth. So I predict this will be a great site for this year's exercise. To make it successful, a few things need to occur. The first is participation by you! It does not matter if you are mic shy, never operated before, or not familiar with the area. You are not alone. I mean to say that is

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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 Rasmussen College, Aurora, IL**

Meeting Minutes April 14, 2009.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Mike Urso K9FE – President with ___ members and ___ visitors present.

Question: Yes or No: 1)Have you ever been in a foxhunt? 2)Do you want to have a club foxhunt?

Secretary Report: Bill W9WRS – meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over.

Treasurers Report: Dean KC9EOQ - Total Assets: \$24683 (Cash/Savings = \$7909.28 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

Committee Reports

Hamfest: Dean KC9EOQ – July 12, 2009. More volunteers are needed. Aurora Central Catholic High School

Membership: Justin KC9NYY – Hard copy rosters are available, for '09 to date 14 new members.

Newsletter: Tobi K9TCD – We need articles for the Arc Over. Tobi will help rewrite if desired. The deadline for submissions for the Arc Over is the 20th of each month.

Yahoo Group: Bill NF9D – Everything is going smoothly.

Linux SIG: Bill W9WRS – Two members present on 4/11/2009. May consider postponing next meeting until later in year.

Software Defined Radio SIG: Harry K9DXA – Next SIG will be on 4/25/2009.

Repeater Committee: Dick AH6EZ – IRLP issues, working on UHF antenna for move to another location, approx. 200 ft. Hum and inter modulation problems on work list for 2M repeater.

Public Relations: Greg N9CHA – Daily Herald article due soon on interview with Denny W9HI. Read letter from Eric KC9FQV regarding Kane County EC.

Kane County OEM: Cyd N9CV -

- June 7 – Tour De Cure – need 12 people
- Swedish Days bicycle ride – conflicts w/Field Day
- Converting van to replace lost resource from Red Cross
- Skywarn Spotter Training – donation for training CD
- Weekly net Wednesday @ 7:00PM, 145.47
- N9UZC new head of field operations
- New Skywarn captain

VE Report: Special schedule Saturday afternoon, May 2, 2009, Kane County OEM building, regular testing May 19, 2009.

Field Day: Eric AB9OS – Field Day is June 27-28, 2009. To be held at Johnson's Mound. For further information, see the website at www.frrl.org. Staff includes:

- Chair – Eric AB9OS
- Technical – Dick AH6EZ
- PR & Misc. - Greg N9CHA
- Still need GOTA Captain

Special Events: Bart KC9FQA – This is the current list of upcoming events:

- April 25, 2009 Oswego Adventure Race
- May 2-3, 2009 MS Walk – Chair Michelle KC9HDB
- June 7, 2009 Canoe Race – Chair Tobi K9TCD
- June 7, 2009 American Diabetes Bike Race – Kane county Ares
- July 12, 2009 Hamfest - Chair Dean KC9EOQ
- June 28, 2009 Tour De Cure
- July 24, 2009 Cougars Night – Chair Ken N9WCX

Database: No report.

Cougars Night: Ken N9WCX – July 24, 2009. Has 50 tickets at \$11.00 each.

Current Business: Moved and carried that Illinois Section Manager and Illinois Section Club Coordinator will be minimally covered on the roster as honorary members, no dues, no voting privileges.

Announcements:

New operating program: Bill NF9D to prepare an on-going program guideline to encourage volunteers to lead portable, day-operating activities in Kane County/Fox Valley area parks. Bill will coordinate. Submit logs to Bill following event.

Program:

National Electronics Museum (Baltimore), Dick AH6EZ

Raffle: Jack K9JE

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May Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Harry K9DXA will bring his Flex Radio 5000A for a live demonstration of his new SDR radio. You may be aware that an SDR SIG was formed and those who are attending are building SDR radios from kits. The program will show other club members the SIG's project in action. There will be an outside antenna so that we can hear real signals and maybe have a QSO.

New Members

Welcome to the Following New Members:

| CALL | NAME |
|---------|------------------|
| No Call | Victoria Pozzie |
| KC0PIJ | Michael Smith |
| KC9NA | Thomas Garritano |

Kudos

Charles Penninger

Have you had a chance to look through your May 2009 QST? On Page 22, as a part of the R&L Electronics ad, you can see our very own Charles' KC9DAO tipper product. Penninger Radio has a very nice picture and description of his TP24. We've used this great product for Field Day and special events. In fact, just this past weekend on the 25th of April, a Penninger Radio portable tipping mast was used during the Oswegoland Adventure Race public service event. The DuPage County ARES group installed a UHF antenna atop the mast and hooked it to a portable repeater.

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what the experienced club members are there for, to show you the ropes, explain what they are doing, and be an Elmer. There will be instructions on how to get there plus there will be a talk-in station.

The second is sunspots....well let me go to the third since we haven't seen many sunspots this entire year! The third is attitude. (No, I didn't type that wrong...ALTITUDE is not what I meant!) The ham's attitude should be "we can do it". So come out with that attitude and have fun, learn, meet other hams, be an elmer, be a student, get ideas, operate, log, setup (setup starts Friday!!!!), take down (really important!!!!), eat, have fun! (Fun is in there twice because Field Day is twice the fun!)

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-April 2009

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Maurice, N4LZ, reports that "March is always a good month to increase contacts for the HF Challenge. I managed to pick up some good DX, C91TX - Mozambique, ET3JA - Ethiopia and J5UAP - Guinea-Bissau."

Jeff, K9BQL, worked H44MS (Solomon Islands) 40 phone, JT1CO Mongolia 30m CW, and FO/N6JA French Polynesia 30m CW.

Larry Stark, K9ARZ has some great hits on 20m PSK: Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Malawi, Crete, Guam, Jersey and Aland Islands.

Dick, AH6EZ reports lots of good DX around this month. Just some of his contacts include HV0, VX8, YL2, HB0, ET3, 5X1, YO9, FJ, KG4, EA9, and EW3.

While some of the scores may seem a bit intimidating, remember, this challenge is all in fun. Challenge yourself – just this month, I will make 3 new contacts, or just one new DX. Have fun with this and keep those scores coming! Off to tighten up G5RV – Cyd

| Limited Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|----------------|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| K9ARZ-PSK31 | 50 | 8 | 115 | 173 |
| K9MMS-CW | 50 | 10 | 110 | 170 |
| KC9FQV-Digital | 23 | 1 | 5 | 29 |

| Operator Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|----------------|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| K9BQL | 37 | 9 | 132 | 178 |
| W9DTR | 48 | 8 | 85 | 141 |
| K9TCD | 38 | 7 | 61 | 106 |
| K9IH | 21 | 2 | 26 | 49 |
| WB9CHY | 27 | 2 | 14 | 43 |

| QRO Class | States | Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|-----------|--------|-----------|--------------|-------|
| AH6EZ | 50 | 11 | 136 | 197 |
| N4LZ | 43 | 5 | 100 | 148 |
| NA9A | 7 | 0 | 105 | 112 |

| Ragchewer Class | States/Prov. | DX Countries | Total |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------|
| W9DTR | | | 38 |
| AH6EZ | | | 17 |
| K9IH | | | 9 |
| KC9FQV | | | 7 |
| NA9A | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| WB9CHY | 1 | 0 | 1 |

SKYWARN

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Spring is here, and as our thoughts turn to gardening, good DX and public service events, it is also the time for severe weather. SKYWARN is run by local ARES, civil defense groups and concerned citizens. We are all trained weather spotters, and report our findings to local Emergency Management and the National Weather Service.

(Many groups have similar policies, but what is relayed here is for Kane County.)

Severe Weather Watch - a net will go into stand-by mode on the OEM repeater, you will hear occasional announcements about the weather watch, with updates as needed. The repeater is free for regular traffic, but leave longer breaks between transmissions in case the net control operator has to break in to take the net to active status. If you have a question about the pending weather, feel free to ask!

Severe Weather Warning - the net will go active, and become a directed net. Spotters will be checking in, and assigned to various locations in the county. Some will act as relays, some will spot from home.

If we are in an active, directed net, there are a few things you should know:

- We can only relay reports from trained spotters.
- Please DO NOT break into the net unless it is an emergency.
- IF you are a trained spotter, and have checked into the net, please check out when you go off the air, or are leaving the county.

If severe weather hits the county, LISTEN to the directions of Net Control. We may have to start prioritizing what damage we can relay. At times like this, we cannot relay every downed branch and tree.

ARES is always looking for storm spotters. We have training and we can send you out with an experienced spotter until you feel comfortable. Email us for more information: N9CV@arrl.net. (OEM repeater - 145.47, minus offset - PL of 103.5 Hz)

Radio in the Park – an FRRL-Sponsored Operating Event

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

If you travelled to every local park, recreation area and forest preserve in our local area you would end up visiting over 150 different locations. This is one reason the FRRL is sponsoring a new operating event program which we call "Radio in the Park". The purpose of the program is to encourage members to get out of the shack and into the fresh air by operating individual amateur radio stations in our local parks and forest preserves.

The program is simple – club members set up stations in any of our local recreation areas and operate those stations. There is no fixed schedule, designated weekend, or any of the other organizational requirements. The only things that you should do to make the program work are to let your fellow hams know when and where you will be operating and send the program coordinator some information when you get home so he can track the scope of the program.

The goals of Radio in the Park are simple too. The idea is to have fun with amateur radio, to share experiences with fellow hams, to practice emergency preparedness, and perhaps to demonstrate amateur radio to the people that wander by your station. There are no requirements for power levels, modes, antennas, or emergency power. If you want to run a pedal-powered QRP station, that's cool. If you want to drive into a park and work QRO sideband from your car, that's cool too.

Here's how to get started. First, pick a location. There are websites for the Kane County Forest Preserve District, the Fox Valley Park District, and the local township and city parks departments which will show you locations and facilities. Second, post the date, time and type of operating you'll be doing on the FRRL Yahoo Group so others know what is going on. If you notify the program coordinator, NF9D, I'll be happy to take care of the notifications for you. Third, get on the air and have fun. Use your personal call sign so you can participate in contests and receive QSL cards. And finally, let me know how many contacts you made, who did the operating, and if you had any visitors.

I will be posting a simple guide for what to report in the files area of the Yahoo group, along with links to the various websites and some suggestions for preserves and parks you can visit.

One other thing – food is not only allowed, it's encouraged. Most of the parks have cooking facilities so you can grill hot dogs and other goodies. Just remember that many of the shelters and covered facilities can be reserved in advance, so please defer to families and groups that have made reservations. And, of course, respect the facilities and leave things the way you found them.

If you have any questions, please contact me, NF9D, at my Roster email address. I hope to see you out in the parks this summer.

Minutes *(Continued from page 2)*

The May 5, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The May 12, 2009 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The May 19, 2009 VE Session will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora.

The June 2, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The June 9, 2009 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Marty N9NTM, 2nd by Harry K9DXA

General meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

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 Rasmussen College 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 Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, 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 \$15.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

The next exam session is scheduled for May 19, 2009 at Rasmussen College.

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:

Box 673
Batavia, Illinois
60510-0673

Email:

info@frrl.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

President

Mike Urso, K9FE

Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

Treasurer

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Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

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FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT RASMUSSEN COLLEGE, 2363 SEQUOIA DRIVE 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.
3023 Scenicwood Ln.
Woodridge, IL 60517

FRRL Event Calendar

May, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting 5
SDR SIG..... 9
FRRL Meeting 12
VE Session 19

June, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting 2
FRRL Meeting 9

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.

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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__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
147.060 +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.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.