



Arc Over

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

June, 2007

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

Are you ready for Field Day? Our FD Chairperson Charles, KC9DAO, his planning committee, and the Band Captains are poised for the big weekend. (June 23-24). We will be assembling our antennas, tents, radios and food service at Jericho Lake Park in Montgomery beginning early Saturday morning.

For some of our club members, this will be their first Field Day event. Many of our members define FD as an emergency preparedness exercise, while others look at it as a contest, and others participate because it's a fun operating event. This year it's all those things! We will have a large Welcome area inviting you to visit with each other in a comfortable tent area shading yourselves from the sun, (dare I don't say rain) enjoying a cold drink and learning about club activities, digital modes, LEO satellites, APRS and more.

We will have three main modes on the air for the entire event. CW, SSB and PSK are the modes of choice this year and we will operate 8A using the club call W9NE. The Get-on-the-Air station will operate as W9CEQ. Several club members will be on hand to walk you through the FD site and introduce you to the various stations. If you've never operated in a FD event, now's your chance! Our band captains and their assistants will encourage you to sit down and get on the air.

Digital technology is certainly continuing to enhance our methods of communications. Our D-Star repeater is getting much more use these days. Many of our members have purchased D-Star equipment lately and are having great fun using this new mode. Kermit W9XA reports that over 1000 hams throughout the US are now registered to use the D-Star Gateway. There are plans being formulated which will be of great interest to those who want to try this mode. Kermit is looking into a "club project" which will include building a digital transceiver capable of TX/RX on D-Star UHF.

A special clean up project was completed at our repeater site on May 12th. Dick AH6EZ organized the project. Thanks to Kermit W9XA, Dick W9YBH, Tom AB9IN, and Charles KC9DAO for their assistance. This project was requested by the tower service contractor in preparation for guy-wire and pylon maintenance. The operational characteristics of both of our FM repeaters has also gone under detailed investigation. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Several of our club members took advantage of the General upgrade classes offered this past spring. Thanks to Eric KB9IDT for a job well done! A special VE session was organized after the last day of class so the students and others could take their tests. Way to go VE Team! And congratulations to all those who passed their tests.

Thanks go to Michelle KC9HDB for organizing this year's MS Walk event. She and several club members provided logistical communications support for the event which is held each year in St. Charles.

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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 May 8, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 57 members present

Question of the Month: What was your first HF Transmitter?

Minutes of the April meeting were published n the web, printed in the Arc Over and were available for re-view.

Treasurers Report: Cash = \$7,189.04 Cash / Checking; Investments = \$15,820.95 (CD's)

Committee Reports:

DATABASE: 165 paid members. Bill, KB9YSI is stepping down as database manager. The membership thanked him for his service and welcomed Chris, KC9BKS as the new database manager.

NEWSLETTER: May edition has been published.

NET CONTROL: Adam, KC9ITG, Net Manager is looking for additional operators and backups. Contact him if you are interested. Tech Net will be held the 4th Tuesday of the month directly following the regular net on the 2 meter repeater.

ROSTER: Mike, K9FBI is distributing the roster. We ran out of copied and had to print more which accounts for the delay. Contact him if you have not received yours yet.

EDUCATION: Eric, KB9IDT reported that the first three session of the General Upgrade Class have been held. There are two more to go and everything is running smoothly. The sessions are held at the Batavia Public Library. Anyone interested in elmering, please contact Eric.

WEBMASTER: Tom, WB9CHY reports that the site is being updates and urged all Committee Chairmen to get updates in so they can be included.

VE SESSIONS: VE Sessions continue to be held the 3rd Tuesday of odd numbered months at 7:30 PM at the Prisco Center. The next one is scheduled for May 15th. Cost is \$14.00 and remember to bring your license, a copy of it and any CSCE's you may have.

HAMFEST: Dean, KC9EOQ announced that each ticket sold will give that member a chance (sell 5 tickets you get 5 chances, etc) in a special drawing with a \$200 prize. See Dean for your tickets and more information.

NEXT GEN: Nets conducted the 1st & 3rd Sunday. Volunteers needed for Field Day activities, please see Tobi, K9TCD if you are interested in helping out.

MS WALK: Michelle, KC9HDB conducted a well organized event. Thanks to the 11 volunteers who helped out.

COUGARS NIGHT: July 27th at 6:30 PM – Fireworks after the game. See Ken, N9WCX for tickets.

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Meeting Minutes March 13, 2007

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FIELD DAY: Charles, KC9DAO reported that plans are well underway by the planning committee. A second band captain meeting will be held in May after the Dayton Hamvention.

PROGRAM: How go get on the air with a good signal.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: The Club has been contacted by a relative of John Spira a man who went missing February 23rd. There will be a mass search held on Saturday May 19th. Eric, KC9FQV ARES EC is working on plans for participation. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Eric.

Swedish Days Bike Ride: June 17th – Kane County ARES is planning on providing communications for the event. See Eric, KC9FQV for details.

Canoe Race: A 6 mile “mini race” sponsored by the Aurora YWCA is taking place instead of the regular Mid-America Canoe Race. About 15 volunteers will be needed for the communications. See Tom, WB8CHY and Tobi, K9TCD if you are interested n helping out.

With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by KC9FQA, seconded by KC9FQV. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM, Break, Raffle and Program to follow.

Respectfully Submitted:

John Spasojevich, K9COE – FRRL Secretary

New Members

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

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

Call	Name	Lic. Class
KC9LHI	George Ludington	Tech
M0XXX/W9	Howard Taylor	-

Childhood Revisited

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The venerable Drake 2B... the first piece of ham gear I was introduced to. Perhaps you can call me sentimental, does anyone else share my enthusiasm for their first ham radio setup? Many guys, including me can tell you all about their first car, the model year and make, the engine size, the number of times it broke down, how often you ran out of gas, the girls.... well, you get the picture.

I have two younger brothers, Dale W9DKB and Glen KE7FZX. It was a full time job for our Dad (Chuck WD9GWG) to keep us interested in all sorts of things while we were growing up in the small town of Osceola, Wisconsin. Photography, sports, slot-cars, model building, rockets, RC planes, computers, hiking, biking, and ham radio to name but a few. The day in 1975 when he came home with a used ham radio receiver purchased from Burghardt Amateur Center was quite an event.

We had experimented with crystal radio sets in scouting and had an old multi-band shortwave receiver at one time too. Many nights my brothers and I would tune in distant AM radio broadcasts on our Mothers 5 tube receiver she kept in the kitchen. But to actually have a ham band receiver, just for us? Now that's exciting! It was not long before we starting stretching lengths of wire around my brothers bedroom ceiling as an antenna. Eventually we got enough scraps of old telephone wire hooked together to make it from his window to the large oak tree in the back yard some 30 feet away.

The Drake 2B is a very sensitive receiver. It is basically a triple conversion superhetrodyne design covering 5 ham bands, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10. Plus any 600 KHz shortwave band between 4 and 30 MHz with auxiliary crystals. The radio was first introduced in 1961. It has a diode or product detector and has a BFO for sideband reception. There is a direct reading 7" slide rule dial which is back lit for easy viewing. During the evening hours, when all the lights are out, the Drake's tubes and front dial lit my brothers bedroom with a warm glow that can only be described as "romantic." Guy romantic that is, no mushy stuff in this article.

In early April, during an FRRL Field Day meeting with the band captains, Jack K9JE brought over a Drake 2B which he and I had talked about some weeks earlier. I jumped at the chance to own this piece of nostalgia. This particular rig was once owned by former FRRL member Bill Erickson, WA9TPQ (sk). Bill had intended to restore the radio at some point before his untimely death in 2002. Jack had also thought of restoring the radio, but decided to sell it to me instead.

My birthday is in April, so I asked my brother Dale to give me a birthday present by lending a hand in the restoration of my new found treasure. One of Dale's passions is working on tube gear, preferably the stuff made between 1940 and 1950. His hamshack, nearly his entire basement, is full of test equipment, and parts which he as scrounged and inventoried for over 20 years. He still owns our first Drake 2B and knows the rig very well.

We removed each of the tubes and checked them out with my brothers tube checker. All were fine. Then, we plugged the receiver into a variable AC supply and slowly brought it to life. The filter capacitors are usually quite old and brittle, and the sudden surge of electricity could force them to fail, so it's always a good idea to gradually bring them back to life. After about an hour, the rig was at full voltage. After hooking up a short piece of wire to the antenna terminals, we first noticed a pronounced hum in the speaker. This was to be expected due to the old electrolytic filter capacitors.

Jack had told me about the hum when he delivered the radio, so I looked around for filter capacitors on the web. I came across a fellow from Indiana, WA9TGT who offers several replacement components for Drake equipment. I purchased his 4 section replacement filter capacitor module along with replacement AF Gain and RF Gain controls.

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June Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The June FRRL program will be measuring the transmitter power, frequency, and deviation of as many member portable and mobile radios as possible. We are still in the planning stages, but we hope to be able to measure forward and reflected power of mobile installations. We will only make adjustments if complete radio documentation is provided, permission is given or user is willing and able to disassemble and make the adjustments, and the need is fairly pronounced.

Bring a radio with you to the meeting and get it checked out.

President's Letter

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The "Paddle the Fox" event is also being supported by our club. Chairpersons Tobi K9TCD and Tom WB9CHY have signed up several FRRL members to provide communications along the Fox River. Be sure to check our web site for further details and pictures of these events.

Coming soon is our Hamfest on July 8th. Be sure to contact Dean KC9EOQ for details on ticket sales and how you can help during set-up and tear-down. On July 27th Ken N9WCX invites you out to the ballpark for the annual Cougars Night. Please see him for tickets to this fun night out at the ball park!

73 Greg Braun N9CHA

Childhood Revisited

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Dale and I replaced the filter cap, first taking a picture of the old unit prior to installing the new kit for reference. Sure enough, after powering on the rig, the speaker was very quiet, the hum was gone. The new filter caps worked great. We decided to replace the AF Gain and RF Gain controls as well since they were a little scratchy. A good cleaning of all the tube contacts and switch contacts with DeoxIT really perked up the operation of the controls.

We introduced an RF signal from Dales test generator into the antenna input and completed the receiver alignment per the service manual. It was not long before we had an outside aerial hooked up and we were listening to stations on 80 meters. What a delight that was! Two brothers once again sitting in front of that glowing slide rule dial, memorized by the sounds coming from the speaker.

Today the radio sits on a table in my bedroom, hooked to an antenna made from old scraps of telephone wire looped around the floor boards between the carpeting and the molding. Each evening as I go to bed, I

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Childhood Revisited

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have the Drake 2B turned on, illuminating the room with that wonderful glow, listening to the conversations as I did long ago; childhood revisited.

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The Drake 2B with Q Multiplier



A right side view of the new filter capacitor.



Bottom view of the old filter cap and resistors



Bottom view of the new cap and resistors.

Field Day 2007 Update

By Charles Penninger – KC9DAO

If you've never been to an amateur radio Field Day, this year you need to make it to ours. I am very excited about the plans we've made this year, and I know you are going to have a great time. June 23-24 are the dates, and Jericho Lake Park in Montgomery is the place you should be. Talk-in will be on the 2 meter repeater.

We will have a large "Welcome" tent area where Bill KB9YSI, Kirt KC9CBY, Mike K9FE, and Greg N9CHA will meet and greet you. They have prepared several demonstrations including vintage radios, HF digital modes, LEO Satellites and APRS.

Our band captains this year have done an outstanding job of getting ready for this event. They are:

80/15 CW Kermit W9XA	80/15 Phone Eric KC9FQV (KC-ARES)
40 CW Tom WB9CHY	40 Phone Dorwin K9DHK
20 CW Larry W9OKI	20 Phone Dick AH6EZ
40 PSK John AG9D	20 PSK Tim N9TO
VHF Bill WB9LPW	GOTA Denny W9HI

We will operate as W9NE, 8A. This means we are operating 8 radio stations using emergency power. The Get On The Air station will use W9CEQ as it's call.

Tobi K9TCD and Carol WD9CNW will be hosting our Next Gen area this year. They have organized a scavenger hunt and other technical activities for young people to participate in.

Becky KB9UBU is our chef this year. She prepares fantastic meals to keep all our operators well nourished during the 24 hour operating event. We ask you to bring a bag of ice to the Field Day site as it is usually pretty warm this time of year and it's great to keep the beverages cold. Some of our members also bring a desert to share as well. Good for midnight snacks!

If you have any questions, please contact me: FieldDay@FRRL.org

We will see you there. 73 Charles KC9DAO

HF Challenge: Congratulations and Corrections

By John Spasojevich, AG9D

First the corrections: Last month I mistakenly said that Cyd, N9CV was a new General, in fact she holds an Extra Class license, obviously I should have known this from the 1x2 call sign. I apologize for that error.

Now the congratulations: Joe, NA9A, worked Scarborough Reef located in the South China Sea. Cyd, N9CV, has worked all states in this years Challenge joining Keith and Larry, way to go! Last but not least, Maurice, with the new call of N4LZ, reports that he has worked 5T5DY Mauritania, (one of the top 100 most needed DX entities) and 5Z4 Kenya this month on Ham Stick Dipoles!

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores— May, 2007

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

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9FE	-	-	46
W9DTR	-	-	37
N9YA	-	-	31
AH6EZ	-	-	12
KC9CHG	-	-	7
NA9A	-	-	5
WB9CHY	-	-	1
KC9FQV	-	-	1

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CV	50/11	75	136
W9DTR	45/8	81	134
K9FE	45/11	59	115
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
KC9FQV	17/1	5	23
KC9CHG	19/0	0	19

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ— PSK	50/9	109	168

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NA9A	27/3	175	205
AH6EX/W9	49/12	141	202
N4LZ (W4CEQ)	45/6	89	140

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. 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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Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

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Charles Penninger,
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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>

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/

Send Address Corrections to:
 Fox River Radio League, Inc.
 40W981 Bridle Creek Drive
 St Charles, Illinois
 60175

FRRL Event Calendar

June, 2007

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

July, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting 3
 FRRL Hamfest 8
 FRRL Meeting 10

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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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. Eve. at 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.
- Next Gen Kid's Net — 1st & 3rd Sundays at 7:00 pm on the FRRL 2 meter repeater.