



# Arc Over

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

June, 2008

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## President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

Field Day! Yes, it's June and that means our annual Field Day event is back, and it's bigger and better than ever!

We have a new site this year, the FOP Lodge at the corner of Hwy. 47 and Kedeka Road, on the edge of Bliss Woods Forest Preserve, north of Sugar Grove. A special thanks to Dean KC9EOQ and Dave N9CTO for securing the property for our use.

Our Field Day Chairperson, Charles KC9DAO has several new plans for this year's event, including a welcome area and information center, the GOTA station location at the entrance of the Lodge, a ham radio history area and a new site plan keeping all stations centrally located for easy access.

If you're new to ham radio, and several of our members are, Field Day is an ARRL sponsored event. It was originally conceived to determine our level of emergency preparedness in times of communication crisis. It has evolved into an operating event, a social event, a contest, an emergency response event, and a teaching and learning opportunity.

This year we will operate as 8A, eight stations on the air using emergency power (generator). Let me introduce your band captains: 80/15 CW is being headed by Harry K9DXA. Harry has rediscovered the hobby and is a good CW operator. You will find him to be very inviting, and anxious for your help. 40 CW band captain is Tom WB9CHY. Tom runs a very nice station, and will need your help installing his antennas. Tobi N9TCD who is also responsible for our NextGen Hams youth activities is Tom's wife. She likes to hang out at some of the phone stations to make

Q's (contacts). Our 20 CW station is being set up by Larry W9OKI. Larry has lots of experience and likes to get other CW ops at his station. In the past the CW guys have added greatly to our point totals.

The 80/15 phone station is being set up by members of our Kane County ARES team, Eric KC9FQV and Dave N9CTO. They will have the St. Charles Red Cross communications trailer at their disposal this year. These dedicated individuals are very friendly and welcome the opportunity to set up their gear and get on the air. 40 phone is being set up by one of our most experienced hams, Mike K9FE. I'm sure Mike would appreciate your help during set up, operation and take down. He continues to be a valuable member of the club by offering his technical expertise to new hams. 20 phone band captain is Dick AH6EZ. Over the years Dick has built and used many home-brew antennas. He takes the time to design and build his FD antennas before hand to prove out their effectiveness. Dick really enjoys FD and likes to experiment. He is one of the motivating forces in the club and continues to assist everyone during the event. If you have a question or a problem, there is no better person to analyze the situation and develop a quick-fix! Becky KB9UBU is Dick's wife. I'd say that everyone in the club knows Becky!! Why? Because Field Day is also about eating, and in this case, we are treated to a fantastic array of tasty treats. Somehow she puts on a feed for nearly 100 hungry hams, families, and guests.

We will operate digital stations this year too. 40 digital is being run by John AG9D, and he's is a "get 'er done" kind of guy. He likes to involve others by getting them to operate his digital station. If you've never operated PSK31 before, or even if you have, please check out our digital stations.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**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 13, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Charles Penninger, KC9DAO – Vice-President with 57 members present, 1 first time visitors.

Question of the Month: How far would you drive round trip to a hamfest?

Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

Secretary Report- Bill W9WRS – meeting minutes avail on Web and Arc Over.

Treasures Report: Total Assets: \$25,122 (Cash/Savings = \$8348 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

**Special announcement:** Gary Hornbuckle K9MMS. Gary has been licensed as an amateur operator for 50 years, since 1958, and has been a member of the FRRL for at least 10 years, since 1959, so is eligible for life membership in the FRRL. A call for a proposal was made, W9YBH proposed and W9XA seconded. The proposal passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

**VE:** Doug, W9RD, Next VE session May 20<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm.

**Special Events:** Bart, KC9FQA. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kendall County “Sweetness Run,” June 7, 2008 – Yorkville, HS – Kendall County ARES Group will lead the event, need FRRL volunteers.

Kane County Ares is looking for volunteers for the Grand Geneva Tour De Cure on June 7, 2008.

**Program:** This month’s program will be presented by Dick, AH6EZ, on remote transceiver control with HRD and Skype.

**Public Relations:** Catherine KC9KJU – Catherine has resigned as our PR Chairperson due to work conflicts.

**Repeater Committee:** Dick, AH6EZ, repeaters will be moved on June 7, 2008.

### **Other Business from the floor:**

Kermit, W9XA, announced an experiment with a worldwide net. There were over 100 checkins from 50 different systems.

Bill, W9WRS, invited everyone to join in on the 3<sup>rd</sup> FRRL foxhunt.

Denny, W9HI, announced that Fred, K9TOS, will be bicycling from Washington state to Florida this summer and will be attempting IRLP contacts with his HT during the trip..

Marty, N9NTM, gave details on the upcoming hamfests.

Eric, KC9FQV, made ARES announcements.

Ken, N9WCX, has tickets available for the Annual Cougars Night outing.

The next board meeting will be held at Penninger Radio, 911 Atlantic Drive, West Chicago, IL.

General meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Breakouts, raffle, and program to follow.

This month’s breakout groups were:

Breakouts:

Silent Auction & Equipment Auction – K9VAV Estate, WA9DWY Items, Club Donation Sale

Hamfest Tickets – Dean KC9EOQ

Chris KC9BKS, Larry W9OKI – Roster handouts

Sweetness Run – Sign ups – Bart KC9FQA

Cougars Tickets – Ken N9WCX

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

## President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

You can operate Tim N9TO's 20 digital station too. Tim and his wife Carol WD9CNW will enjoy your help with the station set up. They are awesome people! You will really enjoy meeting and talking with them both.

Denny W9HI will be overall responsible for the Get On The Air station or GOTA. The rules have changed this year regarding the set up and operation of the GOTA station. If you have been licensed since FD of 2007, please contact Denny, he needs your help! The club needs your help!

We also have a VHF area that is being set up by Bill WB9LPW and Randolph W9HE. They will oper-

ate on 6 and 2 meters. Please come by and help them with their antennas and feed lines. This is an excellent opportunity for you to share in the fun setting up and operating on VHF.

Our talk-in station and welcoming area is being hosted by Lloyd KC9DMS. Lloyd is a friendly guy and is very inviting. He is well known by our members who use the repeaters, providing a warm and inviting voice asking all to participate.

You've met the team! Our club is fortunate to have an enthusiastic, technically competent and motivated group of hams. The FRRL Field Day is like no other, it's friendly, challenging, rewarding and most of all fun! I hope to see you there.

73 Greg Braun N9CHA

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## MS Walk 2008 Follow-up Report

By Michelle Powell, KC9HDB

On Sunday, May 4th, several ham radio operators volunteered their time to assist with the Route Communications at the M.S. Walk at Pottawatamie Park in St. Charles. The weather was perfect for the walk, which began at 9:00a.m. The MS Society chairperson, Abbe Gunnink, was in charge of the event and said they really appreciated all of our help and assistance. (Her co-chairman, Debbie Conner is in the pictures because Abbe was not able to be there at the end of the walk.) Abbe she said that prior to the walk, the MS Society had earned about \$50,000 in donations, and at the walk they took in about \$120,000 so with matching and additional contributions they hoped to hit the goal of \$200,000 in donations for the M.S. Society.

I'd like to thank the following individuals for their help at the walk:

- KC9BKS Chris Kennell (assigned to station #1/3)
- KC9LWY Tyler Kennell (assigned to station #1/3)
- AB9OS Eric Needles (assigned to station #1/3)
- KC9FQA Leonard (Bart) Bartkowski (assigned to station #2/turn-around)
- KC9KJU Catherine Hanson (assigned to station #2/turn-around)
- K9WDB Dave Bulkley (assigned to station #2/turn-around)
- KB9IDT Eric Gustafson (assigned to station #2/turn-around)
- KC9FQV Eric Lorenz (assigned to start/finish line + sag)
- W9NDW Kent TeVault (assigned to start/finish + sag vehicle)
- N9CHA Greg Braun for all of his wonderful photography shots!

Thank you to everyone who helped and for anyone who may have participated in the walk itself. It's always an enjoyable time and I appreciate everyone taking the time (and forgoing the hamfest in Sandwich!) to participate in such a worth-while event and a great cause. Thank you to the FRRL as well!

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – May, 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

New testers include Eric (AB9OS), Mike (K9FE) and Warren (K9IH). Welcome!

I did not get many reports of exciting contacts this month, so I'll use this time for friendly reminders about score submissions. Scores should be submitted by the 15th of the month. For scoring, report the number of states, provinces and DX countries. Do not forget to include what class, regular (operator), high power (QRO) or limited. If you decide on limited, explain the limitation, i.e., CW or digital mode. If you are also entering rag chew class, this is just the total number of rag chew contacts.

Reports can be submitted by email, telephone or radio. For radio reports, I usually monitor the OEM repeater (145.470), so try me there.

If you make an unusual contact, let us know! This does not have to be an exotic country, either! An aeronautical mobile over Canada, a marine mobile outside Russia would "qualify". Any questions, please feel free to ask!!

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO	-	-	58
K9FE	-	-	52
W9DTR	-	-	27
KC9FQV	-	-	24
K9IH	-	-	13
AH6EZ	-	-	12
NA9A	-	-	11
N9YA	-	-	3
AB9OS	-	-	3
WB9CHY	-	-	2
KC9DAO	0	0	2

Operator Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NF9D	46/7	67	120
W9DTR	44/8	68	120
N9CV	45/7	35	87
K9JE	38/5	33	76
K9FE	35/5	23	63
K9TCD	38/4	20	62
N9YA	27/5	27	59
K9IH	19/4	6	29
KC9ITG	25	2	27
WB9CHY	15/1	3	19

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update (Continued)

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ (Digital)	50/8	92	150
N9CTO (Digital)	44/5	8	57
KC9FQV (Digital)	29/8	16	53
AB9OS (CW)	3/1	33	37
KC9DAO (15 Meters)	2	13	15

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/10	146	206
NA9A	16	44	60

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## New Members

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

Here is a list of new members that have joined since the last newsletter. Please extend a friendly welcome to all of these hams when you hear them on the air or see them at a club meeting.

Call	Name
N9GCF	David La Cure

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## New Life Member: Gary Hornbuckle, K9MMS

Congratulations to Gary K9MMS for achieving Life Membership with the FRRL. Gary was first licensed on May 12, 1958 and became an FRRL member shortly afterward. Gary is also a Life Member of the ARRL. Gary received his recognition at the May general membership meeting. To become a Life member you have to be licensed for at least 50 years and have been a member of the FRRL for ten years.

## Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The June board meeting will be held at Penninger Radio, 911 Atlantic Drive, West Chicago, IL.

The July meeting will be held at Colonial Café, 1961 West Galena Road, in Aurora at 7:30 pm. The restaurant is located in the West Aurora Plaza.

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## June Program Notes

The June program will consist of demonstrations and other presentations related to FRRL Field Day.

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## DuPage County ARES Meeting Announced

The DuPage County ARES June meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2008, at the Wheaton Community Center, Coley Room, located at 1777 South Blanchard Road in Wheaton.

Following the regular business meeting, the third module of a five part training series will be held. The training presents the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course (ARECC) Level 1. The training will include both interactive lectures and on-line web seminars. Completion of the training series will make the participant eligible to take the on-line certification examination.

For additional information, contact DuPage County ARES at 630 650-0799 or by e-mail to [w9ndw@dupageares.org](mailto:w9ndw@dupageares.org).

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Seen at Dayton — a rotator on the roof.

## **N9CHA visits K9LU in Alaska**

By Greg Braun, N9CHA.

Do you remember the excellent program put on by Lou K9LU and his wife Val KC9HRK in January? Well I sure do, and it rekindled my desire to visit Alaska, a dream of mine since I was 6 years old.

On March 27th, 1964 the Good Friday Earthquake hit southern Alaska near College Fjord in Prince William Sound. The Pacific and North American plates collided and created one of the most devastating events of the modern era, lasting for up to 5 minutes, and causing huge tsunamis killing 131 people.

A young man my age, Lance, was living in Anchorage at the time. He and his family were severely affected by the earthquake forcing them to leave Alaska and live with family members in Wisconsin until they could rebuild. It was not until later in 1964 that I met Lance in 1st Grade at Longfellow Elementary School in Wausau. He was a very shy boy, but some of us made friends with him and got him involved with school activities. I remember his father coming to visit our school and explained what had happened to his family. He brought along newspapers that had photos of some of the damaged streets, businesses and houses in Anchorage.

Ever since then, when anyone spoke about Alaska, or I would see something on TV about the state, I would remember my encounter with Lance and his family. Later in my life I looked at pictures and films of the awesome beauty of the landscapes and vowed to sometime visit. This past January the pictures and events shown and told to us by Lou and Val ignited a spark in me to make the journey this year. Alaska will celebrate it's 50th year of statehood next year, and I turned 50 this year... so off I went with my friend and business partner Kathy N9DEE for a week-long vacation.

We landed in Anchorage after a 5 1/2 hour flight from Minneapolis. This time of year the sun never really sets, so it was somewhat difficult to acclimate to the high sun angle at 11 pm. When I was planning for this trip I organized a "to-go" kit of ham radio equipment. I bought an Icom IC-7000; received a new LDG auto-tuner for my birthday, and put together a 40 and 20 meter dipole to take with me. However, after looking at propagation near the 60 degree parallel, I decided not to take my kit, and only took my handi-talkie and a mag-mount antenna. I soon learned that nearly all of the Anchorage repeaters are permanently hooked up to an IRLP reflector, making direct connections impossible. I did receive a call from Dick AH6EZ who connected with the reflector, and later with my brother Glen KE7FZX who did the same.

Monday the 19th we drove to Wasilla, a thriving community about 50 miles north of Anchorage on the Parks Highway where Lou and Val have their trailer. Lou and I had coordinated our arrival using 146.52 simplex just in case I had the directions wrong. Lou talked us in just fine and after a nice hour long visit, we set out to get some lunch and see the sights. Wasilla is growing and currently has most of the chain stores we enjoy here. It's amazing to see a Wal-Mart, Home Depot and other big-box stores set up along the highway just like Randal Road!

I asked Lou if we could visit Gary AL9A's home. Gary was not at home unfortunately. If you've ever seen Gary's QSL card, you know why I wanted to visit. Gary has helped us (W9BHB Club) out with an IRLP contact in the past and has described his wonderful location. I just needed to see it to believe it... and it's just as beautiful if not more so!

After talking to Lou about HF, he informed me that the absorption at the high latitude made it nearly impossible to make contacts on a regular basis. With patience and proper band conditions it is possible but hard to do.

Alaska is a beautiful state with lots to offer. The short week-long visit made me wanting to go back, perhaps during the high peak of the next solar cycle. This trip I did see Mt. McKinley from Talkeetna, and Turnaround Arm from Girdwood, the Port of Seward and Resurrection Bay, and the Portage Glacier. Lou and Val will return later this year. They have many more stories to tell about their year-long adventure... and I can't wait to see and hear them!

## N9CHA Alaska Photos

Photos from Greg's trip to Alaska and the visit with Lou and Val Petkus. (See the story on Page 7.) Lou's photos can be seen on the web at <http://www.louandval.com/>.



Lou and Greg standing in front of the Petkus' Trailer.



Lou and Val standing along side their trailer in Wasilla.



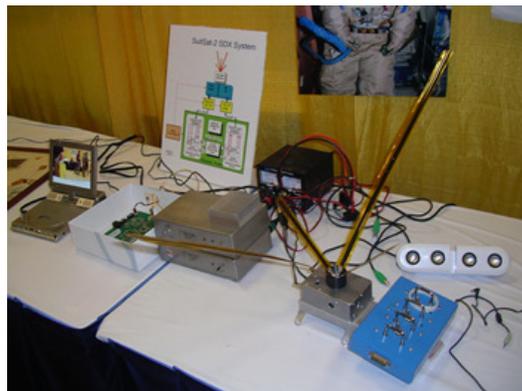
Lou and Greg kneeling in the back yard of AL9A's QTH.



The McKinley Mountain Range as seen from the Susitna River in Talkeetna.

## Photos from Dayton

Dick, AH6EZ, took some photos during his trip to Dayton ...



Prototype of SuitSat 2 equipment at the AMSAT booth.



The ultimate mobile antenna platform.



"So many radios ... So little time!"



Antennas were everywhere!

## 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 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 at 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, 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 13, 2008, 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.

## 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

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

Charles Penninger,  
KC9DAO

#### Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

#### Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

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Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

#### Past President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

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Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

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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

#### June, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 3  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 10  
 Field Day ..... 27—29

#### July, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 1  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 8  
 VE Session ..... 13  
 FRRL Hamfest ..... 13

## Handy Web Links

<b>FRRL Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.frrl.org/">http://www.frrl.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>

### 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@frrl.org](mailto:arcover@frrl.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

**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.