



Arc Over

June, 2010

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

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Take ten hams, a hundred exhibitors and activities and add 14,000 scouts and what do you have? Scout-O-Rama 2010 at Cantigny! What a blast! You've heard all about it for months now and on Saturday May 15th it finally happened and we could not have asked for a better, more successful event. This started way back in December when Harry K9DXA was contacted by the event organizers for our help when another local club couldn't do it. A club of our size always has people available for a good cause, so even though it was Dayton weekend, we accepted the offer. Harry handed off the lead to Mike K9FE and he really put together an outstanding show. Setup took place on soggy, windy ground on Friday. At 6a.m. Saturday Mike K9FE, Bill WB9LPW, John AG9D, Larry W9OKI, Jon WA9JON, Keith N9YA, Eric AB9OS, Denny W9HI, Kent W9NDW and Jerry KA9VMD completed the equipment setup and got ready for the scouts. We aren't sure, but the general guess is at least several hundred scouts came through. We had several display boards, a 20m PSK station, 40m Phone, 2/440 FM and handheld satellite stations. By far, and I mean by far, the most popular thing was the table with several CW oscillators and some code "cheat sheets". Eric, Kent, Bill and Larry all took turns manning this table three at a time to handle all the scouts who had to send their names in code to earn a hand stamp. Scoutmasters asked questions regarding the club and ham radio in general. We were invited by a representative of the Chicago Council to put on the same demonstration at their Scout-O-Rama in September and a gentleman from southern Illinois took notes on our set up to replicate it in his area. Thanks also to Greg N9CHA for the IRLP QSO's and to a ham in Michigan, a 40m phone contact made by Denny, who took over an hour of his time to talk with the visiting scouts as they passed through. Each of our events has a unique flavor and it's hard to say one is better than another, but I have to say that of all of the things I have been involved in over the years, for me this was one of the best things I have done. Thanks again to everyone involved for a job well done.

Remember the Mid America Canoe Race is quickly coming up on 6th of June and the Sweetness Run is the day before on the 5th. These are very fine events and worthy of your time. Please see Tobi and/or Chris to help out with these. Don't like canoes and sneakers? Then try bikes! The Tour de Cure to battle Diabetes bike event needs your help, contact Eric K9LGE to lend a hand.

Field Day is coming! It's like Christmas; you can't stop it no matter how much of a Grinch you are. The plans look promising and we anticipate another great weekend. We are at the FOP lodge, so rain is not a problem, the tents will be battened down, the food will be good and the fellowship will be outstanding. In addition to the usual modes, this year we'll have a demonstration area with some more unusual things: ATV, 2.4GHz HSMM, D-Rats and maybe one or two other things, so come on out.

Our Hamfest is the final "major" event for the year on July 11th; we need your help to make it a success. Dean and Jere can use a hand on Saturday the 10th with setup and on Sunday with parking lot detail, ticket sales, and other tasks. This is the major revenue generator for the club so if you can help out, please do.

After the hamfest, treat yourself to a night at the ballgame. Our annual Cougars night is July 16th. Plenty of tickets are available, contact Ken N9WCX to purchase them.

After that...it's vacation time. Maybe some radio in a trip to some far off place for fun and excitement. Enjoy your summer and if you have any radio adventures, let us know. 73!

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation
Held at St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL**

Meeting Minutes May 11, 2010.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by John Spasojevich – President with 40 members, 3 new visitors present.

- Thanks to Victoria, KC9PWW for the coffee/donuts.
- **Secretary Report:** Harry K9DXA– meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over. Motion to accept Marty, N9NTM, 2nd by Larry, W9OKI. Minutes accepted with meeting location correction.
- **Treasurers Report:** Dean, KC9EOQ: Checking: \$ 1522.00, Savings: \$ 6267.40, Petty cash: \$80.00, Total Investments: \$17,527.86, Repeater fund: \$3822.20

Announcements:

Upcoming events:

- Tour De Farms June 12-13, 2010 No need for amateur radio operation
- Tour De Cure June 13, 2010
- Sweetness Run May 15
- Mid America Canoe Race June 6
- Cougars Night July 16, 2010. Tickets are \$10.00
- PR chair vacancy Dawn, KC9LQS handling through June
- DJ (Jensen), KF9OW donating various used gear, QST magazines
- Looking for more help for Field Day

Committee Reports:

- Tobi K9TCD needs more material for the ArcOver
- Program - Dick, AH6EZ: May- Dxpediton notes, June- Field Day, July – Midway Island Dxpediton
- Repeaters – Dick, AH6EZ and Kermit, W9XA – 2M DSTAR system will be linked to Dayton during Hamvention.
- Looking for a server donation to upgrade local DSTAR server
- VE Team – Doug, W9RD – VE next Tuesday in St. Rita Parish Community Center
- Membership – No report
- Education – Eric, AB9OS announced a new Extra Class next Fall. Details on the web. Max. 21 students.
- Field Day – Eric, AB9OS – Band captains announced previously. Set up 1:00pm Friday, Adam, KC9ITG is the Field Marshall. Please give him a hand. Saturday, 11:00am is RFI check, 1:00pm start. Dawn, KC9LQS needs a short paragraph via email from all covering your own memorable Field Day experience.

Old Business:

- Scout-O-Rama -Mike, K9FE reported all plans are made, Set-up Friday, May 14, final set-up and operation May 15
- DX bureau cards – Jack, K9JE reported he is collecting outgoing cards
- SIGS – Harry, K9DXA and Mike, K9FE reported SIGS are taking the summer off
- MS Walk recap - Mike, K9FE reported a great event, MS Walk staff needed some help from FRRL staff for additional assistance. Numbers and donations were down.

Member Announcements

None.

New Business

None.

The June 1 , 2010 board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The June 8, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The July 6, 2010 board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The July 13, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Randolph, W9HE, 2nd Mike K9FE.

General meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Harry Jones, K9DXA
FRRL Vice President

June Program Notes

The May club meeting program will be all about Field Day 2010 with the FRRL. Come here what the club is planning so that you can be involved in all the fun.

Scout-A-Rama 2010

by Mike K9FE

The Scout-A-Rama 2010 at Cantigny, May 15 2010 was Three Fires Council's biggest ever. The 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts in the United States is this year. Over 14,000 scouts, leaders, and visitors were in attendance. The planning started well over a year ago by the Council. There were 156 booths or activities run by scout troops or packs, clubs or organizations, and commercial vendors. The FRRL was one of the clubs that put together a booth. It was not to advertise the FRRL, but to put part of the radio experience into a scout's life.

Several months ago we were approached to set up a booth for the Scout-A-Rama. What we were going to do at this booth was uncertain. How to engage scouts and visitors of various ages was still a question. Harry K9DXA agreed to take the helm, but we were on notice that after the beginning organization he wanted to hand it off someone else. He has had plans for going to the Dayton Hamvention on the date of the event. Harry did a great job organizing so when I agreed to take it over a lot of the legwork was done.

A lot of thought was put in on what to do with the booth. The kids are fascinated by CW. Computers are old hat to the younger scouts, but the older scouts and leaders like them. They all like to talk. So we had to find a balance. A phone station seemed like a no-brainer. The thought of a CW station seemed good at first, but after talking to some kids at my school about the age of cub and boy scouts something much simpler was needed. Kids love success, and who doesn't. Listening to someone else do CW did not seem like the right way to give scouts the experience. Our club is blessed with a good number of CW ops that work well with youth. So we had the kids send their name in CW (with a cheat sheet) to earn a hand stamp, which said "I Sent Morse Code". Why? The task of sending their name is pretty quick so we could move a lot of youth through and it was an activity that was a personal success for each participant. The idea of a hand stamp was tied with the idea of a "green" booth (Harry took charge of obtaining the stamps). No paper was given out so no paper was dropped on the ground or left at another booth. Of course the stamp would most likely stay in their vision for a few days reminding them of the event. The kids and some adults loved earning the stamp. We also had a "Free Form" sign-in sheet that we asked them to sign, and then they received a second stamp "Ham Radio Scouting". The scouts were proud of their stamps showing them off to their friends and family. The CW mentors were Eric AB9OS, Kent W9NDW, Larry W9OKI, Bill WB9LPW, and Keith N9YA. The Free Form sign-in sheet was mostly manned by Jerry KA9VMD but everyone took some of the activity.

Second in popularity was the HF phone station. Denny W9HI set up and operated this station with great success. One ham in particular from northern Michigan spent almost 90 minutes talking to many young and interested youth. Denny did a fantastic job with the phone station. Youth can be mic shy, but Denny put them at ease so they could experience HF communications. The phone ops were Denny W9HI, Jon WA9JON, and Larry W9OKI.

John AG9D had the FM side of radio, including satellite-ready communications. Much interest from leaders came from his ARISS pictures and material from the school clubs success and other contacts to the space station he was involved in. The FM station also was our logistics and talk-in for the hams that were involved. Since we were not sure how the parking was going to be enforced so some of us had to park in Warrenville at the Navistar lot. If they arrived early enough we were able to find a spot at Cantigny. The FM link was used then to arrange pickup. There were shuttle buses running all day from the remote parking to the site, however.

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Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-May 2010

By Eric Needles, AB9OS

So we are coming into summer and the family and work obligations are cutting into ham time (darn it). Only a handful of updates for the HF Challenge. Hopefully we'll all get charged up at Field Day and go into the second half of the year eager to find time to get on the air. If you're like me, I keep my radio ready at all times so when I get an extra 15 or 20 minutes, and no one is looking, I go down to the basement where my radio is and scan the bands.

A big welcome to a long time participant Eric K9LGE (previously in the HF Challenge as KC9FQV) who is now officially in for 2010. Eric is working limited Digital, but will also log a lot of Rag Chews throughout the year. He also tells us the about the fun he has had "working 10m...DX on 10m! Got Brazil, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico both on 10; and Guadeloupe Is. (FG5LA), Cuba and Guatemala on 15m...looking forward to catching up with everyone else!"

If you haven't been in the Challenge yet this year, there is still PLENTY of time to do it. Just pick a category and start logging contacts. Send me your update by the 15th of the month and you are in!

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9BQL-CW	23	9	153	185
K9ARZ-Digital	50	9	103	162
K9MMS-CW	50	9	79	138
AB9OS-CW	38	3	57	98
NF9D-QRP	21	2	41	64
K9LGE-Digital	12	1	8	21

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	50	10	100	160
N9YA	29	8	70	107
K9TCD	42	6	51	99
KC9LQS	36	5	54	95
WB9CHY	36	4	52	92
KC9EOQ	35	5	47	87
W9IV	21	4	61	86
K9IH	24	6	37	67

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	12	179	241
K9JE	41	11	157	209
KC9DAO	34	4	89	127
N9JZN	32	4	65	101
NA9A	7	1	21	29

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	23/5	13	41
AH6EZ			33
K9IH	6	6	12
N9YA	10/1	1	11
K9LGE			11
AB9OS	8	0	8
NA9A	4	2	6
K9JE	1	1	2

Education—License Upgrade Classes for the Fall

The FRRL is again offering license upgrade classes. The schedule is as follows:

General Class

Sat. Oct. 9 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Oct. 16 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Oct. 23 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Oct. 30 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Nov. 6 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Nov. 13 9am-12:30pm

Extra Class

Sat. Sept. 25 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Oct. 2 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Oct. 9 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Oct. 16 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Oct. 23 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Oct. 30 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Nov. 6 9am-12:30pm
 Sat. Nov. 13 9am-12:30pm

Please check the frrl.org website for further details.

We also had an HF digital station on 20 meters. We only worked a couple dozen stations and spent a lot of time explaining the differences between radio modes. Most of the digital audience were older scouts, adults, and scout leaders. One station we did work was NJ2BB, the battleship New Jersey. They were watching our contact in progress with a station in Canada and then followed up by giving us a call. The digital op was Mike K9FE.

This turned out to be a really great event for the FRRL. The hobby was shown to hundreds of scouts and leaders. Many leaders inquired about either how we could get involved with their troop or how they personally could get involved. I hate to be cliché, but this was a WIN-WIN for all involved. Thanks again to the hams that were part of the planning, setup, operation, and take-down of the booth. Your energy was well spent!



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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting busi-

ness, 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. A special session is held at the club's hamfest, usually in July each year. 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 July 11, 2010 at the club hamfest at Aurora Central Catholic High School. Please see the frrl.org website for details

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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FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT RASMUSSEN COLLEGE, 2363 SEQUOIA DRIVE IN AURORA, BUT LOCATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR THE ADDRESS AND A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION.
<http://www.frrl.org>

Send Address Corrections to:
Fox River Radio League, Inc.
3023 Scenicwood Lane.
Woodridge, IL 60517

FRRL Event Calendar

June, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 1
FRRL Meeting 8

July, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 6
FRRL Hamfest..... 11
FRRL Meeting 13

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—147.225 Mhz (-6.0 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 6:30 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.
- Monthly Simplex Net—4th Tues following weekly FRRL Net on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.