



# Arc Over

Fox River Radio  
League  
PO Box 673  
Batavia, IL  
60510-0673

June, 2011

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## President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Dayton, Radio in the Park, MS Walk, Field Day, Cougars Night, Hamfest. We've enjoyed quite a bit of activity and your club continues to be active and we hope you are planning on joining us; we sure would love to see you!

Once again a big thank you to the MS Walk crew on a job well done, and special thanks to Keith for being a good sport. When I picked up the volunteer sign up sheet I noticed he hadn't signed up and I know he has done this event for many years, so I did what any good old school leader would do, I volunteered him! I put him on the list, sent it to Mike and there you go. He's told me that he may work communications next year as a walker; I think that would be great!

On May 21<sup>st</sup> we conducted our first Radio in the Park get together, thanks to Dawn, Jeff, Mike, Bill, Dan, Jerry and everyone else who came out and operated or, like me just visited for a while. It rained off and on during the day until about an hour after tear down, then the sun came out...of course! We have another one of these scheduled for August at Campton Hills Forest Preserve. Bill NF9D will have more information on that as it gets closer.

If you went to Dayton (I didn't) I know there is some exciting news from Elecraft on their new rig the KX3. If you went and happened to see it, maybe you can do a few minutes on it at the next meeting. I had hoped to make it there this year but life happens as they say, and as the Cubs fans say....wait 'til next year!

The Tour de Cure Bike event is around the corner on June 12<sup>th</sup>. This is a pretty large race and our club is supporting communications by dedicating the use of the 2 meter repeater for the duration. It may be linked to a 440 repeater in the Wheaton area so PLEASE move all routine traffic to NIARC or our 440 repeater for the day on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Field Day is around the corner. This year, as in all years, it is the last full weekend in June, translated, that is the 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Come on out to Johnsons Mound in Elburn, roughly Route 47 and Hughes Road. It's a fun time. Mike and Harry are handling the planning and they will present more details at our June meeting.

We have representatives of three county ARES operations in our club. Chris KC9BKS is the Assistant EC for Kendall, Kent W9NDW is EC for DuPage and Bill NF9D is EC for Kane County. If you are at all interested in the public service side of the hobby, please make it a point to seek them out and see what needs they may have.

Our annual night out at the ballpark and away from the shack is coming up. Ken N9WCX is handling the sales of our Cougars Night tickets. We have gone as a group to a ballgame on a fireworks night for many years; it's a nice evening even if you are not a baseball fan. Come on out, who can resist a cold hot dog and a warm beer! We have a block of tickets which are paid for in advance and we sell them to you at cost, so get them while the getting is good, we have about 30 left.

There is plenty more action where this came from, come on out to a meeting see what's happening and have a cup of coffee or a cold soda and an eyeball with your friends.

**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**

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Meeting Minutes May 10, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by John Spasojevich AG9D– President with 55 attendees.

- John AG9D welcomed all to the May meeting, and asked that each attendee introduce him/herself and answer the question “What is the oldest functional piece of gear in your shack?”
- **Secretary’s Report:** John AG9D announced that the meeting minutes for the April 12, 2011 Regular Meeting are available in *ArcOver* on the FRRL website. Mike K9FE motioned to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Kermit W9XA. The motion carried.
- **Treasurers Report:** John AG9D summarized the FRRL financial status and stated that the particulars of the Treasurer’s Report were available directly from Dean KC9EOQ on request from any FRRL member. Randolph W9HE motioned to accept the Treasurer’s Report, which was seconded by Mike K9FE. The motion carried.
- **Announcements:**
  - Eric K9LGE announced the “Tour de Cure” bicycle ride on Sunday, June 12. Volunteers are needed for this all day event, which intends to raise funds for diabetes research.
  - Harry K9DXA announced that the next Software-Defined Radio (SDR-SIG) meeting will be held Saturday, May 14 at Rasmussen College from 9 AM to noon.
  - MS-Walk: John AG9D asked that the volunteers for this recent event stand for recognition.
  - John AG9D noted that the Monday evening 10-10 City of Lights Net with NCS Joe NA9A just conducted its 1800<sup>th</sup> consecutive net.
  - Jeff N9JZN won the evening door prize, a PC sound card interface kit.
- **Committee Reports**
  - **Cougars Night** – Ken N9WCX has tickets for this event, which will be the July 15<sup>th</sup> Cougars baseball game at 7 PM. He noted that this game features a fireworks display.
  - **Education** – Eric AB9OS reported that there will be one final General Class Upgrade Session on Saturday, May 14 at Rasmussen College. He also noted that new instructor Dawn KC9LQS covered the antenna portion of the syllabus at the May 7<sup>th</sup> session. A new Technician license training class may be scheduled to begin in the August/September time frame.
  - **Field Day** – Mike K9FE and Harry K9DXA reported on preparations for Field Day, which will be held at Johnson’s Mound, Elburn. A new 10m phone station has been added this year.

With the exception of 40m CW, all Band Captain positions have been filled: VHF/UHF, Bill WB9LPW; 10m phone, James KC9RVP; 20 phone, Dick AH6EZ; 20 CW, Larry W9OKI; 40 phone, Dawn KC9LQS; 15/80 phone, Dick W9IV; 15/80 CW, Gary K9MMS; Satellite, John AG9D; GOTA, Ron KC9SNI.

Setup will begin Friday afternoon and continue Saturday morning. Orv Erickson will be furnishing a generator for power. This year’s event will emphasize simplicity. Grills will be used to prepare basic food items.

- **Hamfest** – Jere KA0KPO reviewed preparations for the FRRL Hamfest to be held on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. He has tickets for the event. Jere asked for volunteers to assist Hamfest dealers set up Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. He also asked for volunteers to assist with tickets on Sunday morning.
- **Membership** – Chris KC9BKS reported that the FRRL presently has 161 members.
- **Nets:** Dawn KC9LQS reported that the trial Friday afternoon net has inconsistent and insufficient participation. Keith N9YA will act as informal NCS for the time being for those wishing to continue with the net.
- **Program** – Bill NF9D conducted a “Go-Kit Challenge” to demonstrate the process of quickly assembling and using emergency communications equipment. Eric AB9OS and Debby KC9SUT participated as evaluators of Bill’s two example Go-Kits.
- **Radio in the Park** - Bill NF9D reminded the group that this year’s first “Radio in the Park” event will be held Saturday, May 21 on the grounds of St. Rita of Cascia Church. The event will include several activities including a session on antenna construction.

- o VE Team – Doug W9RD reported that the next VE session will be held Tuesday, May 17.

### **Old Business**

Membership Survey – Dawn KC9LQS discussed the on-going FRRL membership survey. The completion date for the survey and data analysis has been extended by one month to June. The raffle for the Survey participation prizes will be conducted at the June General Membership Meeting.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim K9XP and seconded by Randolph W9HE. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Ron Jahr KC9SNI  
FRRL Secretary

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## **Public Service and the Amateur Radio Community**

By Kent TeVault W9NDW

We amateur radio people have a long history of public service, especially in times of disaster. But do we have to pack up and travel to Haiti, or to New Orleans, or some other disaster area to be of service?

Chances are, there are opportunities right in your own community.

There are almost 1500 separate governmental entities in the Greater Chicago area, and many of these have groups of volunteers organized in some form or other to help in times of emergency. They may be formal “agencies,” with various names: Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA), etc. Some are recent additions, while others have a long history stretching back 50 or 60 years or more to a Civil Defense organization.

Since 9-11-01 there have also sprung up a variety of other groups generally termed Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).

One thing you can say for sure about all of these groups is that ... they can differ a lot from one another. Some are well-funded and well-structured, while some just barely limp along, carried on the shoulders of a few dedicated volunteers (or self-aggrandizing empire builders, depending on how you view it) who are never far from burnout.

The other thing you can say about all of them is that they have communications needs. Some of them may not realize it yet, but they do.

If you have an interest in “giving something back” to your community, one excellent way to satisfy that need is to seek out these organizations and see if you can contribute to their mission.

In the interest of full disclosure, I have to say that some of these teams are closed groups, “old-boy clubs,” that may not be too welcoming. Don’t take it personally if you run into one of these. There are others, and that one probably won’t be around all that long, anyway.

How you make your approach can be critical. They probably have a great need for your communications skills and equipment; they just may not know that yet. Needless to say, if you come in and offer yourself as the solution to all their problems you probably won’t get a warm reception.

On the other hand, if you approach with enthusiasm and make an effort to learn the organization, its mis-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-May 2011

By Eric Needles AB9OS

The busy summer is already cutting into radio time for a lot of people and it shows in the scores for the HF Challenge. However, some participants, like Warren K9IH, are making a lot of progress on their scores. Of course there are those like Dick AH6EZ, Gary K9MMS and Larry K9ARZ who have worked all 50 states, over 200 countries and are slowly pounding away on Reefs & Rocks. In fact Larry says "recent catches include: PP0T, JD1BMH, T6LC, AH0/AB2RF, FK8IK, EY7AD, UK8AR, KH8/N9YU, & T31A. The band conditions have been good but the pickings are getting slim."

A special welcome to Dawn KC9LQS who has jumped into the challenge in the Operator category. Dawn is a great example of how it is never too late to get into the Challenge. Of special interest too is the back and forth for the top of the ragchew category. Nice work by both Steve N5EP (last year's top Ragchew participant) and Dick AH6EZ who always puts up a big score.

That's it for this month. Get on HF and have some fun! And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9MMS-CW	50	9	173	232
K9BQL-CW	34	5	99	138
NF9D-QRP	39	4	46	89
W9IV-QRP	28	5	54	87
N5EP-CW	38	4	10	52
KC9SNI-10m	1		16	17
K9LGE-Digital	5			5
AB9OS-CW	2			2

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ	50	10	228	288
AH6EZ	50	10	227	287
N4LZ	30	1	101	132
KC9DAO	31	5	83	119
N9JZN	26	5	76	107
NA9A	20	0	69	89
KC9EOQ	29	4	47	80

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	50	11	129	<b>190</b>
KC9LQS	30	8	76	<b>114</b>
K9TCD	38	5	67	<b>110</b>
K9FBI	35	6	54	<b>95</b>
K9IH	23	3	17	<b>43</b>
WB9CHY	32	3	4	<b>39</b>

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
N5EP	32/2	2	<b>34</b>
AH6EZ	21/2	9	<b>32</b>
W9DTR	23/3	4	<b>30</b>
K9IH	17	7	<b>24</b>
NA9A	7	1	<b>8</b>
AB9OS	2		<b>2</b>

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## June Program Notes

The June program will be in two parts. First will be an information session on the club's Field Day plans. The rest of the time will be spent on what was new and exciting at Dayton this year, including the Elecraft KX3.

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*Public Service and the Amateur Radio Community (Continued from page 3)*

sion, its background and expectations, I'll bet that in a short time you will become an integral part of their operations, and they will soon be wondering how they ever got along without you.

What about ARES in all this? You don't need to join an ARES team, although I wish you would. That's where you polish your skills, meet key people you may be working with in a disaster, etc. To tell the truth, emergencies don't happen all that often (be grateful!) And EMAs, ESDAs, CERTs, etc., seldom get involved in events like bike rides, charity walks, parades, and such. So in a sense, affiliation with a local agency gives you a measure of credibility, while involvement with ARES gives you more opportunities to develop your skills.

What's not to like?

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## Field Day 2011

The 2011 FRRL Field Day will take place at Johnson's Mound Forest Preserve (same place as 2009) just a little west of St. Charles. It's always the fourth full weekend in June, June 25-26, 2011. Set up will start after 1:00PM on Friday, June 24. We still need someone to take charge of the 80-15M CW station. All station teams are looking for help setting up, operating, and cleaning up. Please plan to spend all or a part of this weekend supporting FRRL & Field Day 2011. It's always great fun. Please direct any questions to Mike K9FE or Harry K9DXA.

## 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 and includes social time,

a business portion and a program of interest.

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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora 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 10 at the club's hamfest at Aurora Central Catholic High School. Please see the [frrl.org](http://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

### Mailing Address:

Box 673  
Batavia, Illinois  
60510-0673

### Email:

[info@frrl.org](mailto:info@frrl.org)

### Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

### President

John Spasojevich, AG9D

### Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

### Secretary

Ron Jahr, KC9SNI

### Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

### Directors:

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Larry Stark, K9ARZ

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

### Past President

Mike Urso, K9FE

### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

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**FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ST. RITA OF CASCIA IN AURORA, IL, 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, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 7  
FRRL Meeting ..... 14

#### July, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 5  
VE Session/Hamfest..... 10  
FRRL Meeting ..... 12

### 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](mailto:arc-over@frri.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—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.