



Arc Over

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

July, 2011

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Field Day!

"Field Day is always the last full weekend of rain in June" so says Mike K9FE. Fortunately he was wrong, but not by much! What a week! Monday, rain. Tuesday, tornados in Downers Grove. Wednesday, rain. Thursday, yep, more rain. Is there any hope or will this year's Field Day be more like Swamp People? Friday, cloudy but no rain, whew, we caught a break. Set up went smoothly; we put up the big club tents which is a challenge, until you get the first one up then the others come easily. Some of us spent the night Friday: Dick AH6EZ in his new fifth wheel trailer, Ron KC9SNI and I in our tents. The band captains started rolling in around 7 a.m. Saturday and in a few hours we were ready to go. The interference test was conducted and lunch was served at noon. By 1 p.m. everyone was ready and Field Day 2011 commenced.

The weather was beautiful with mild temperatures. Rain threatened right around charcoal lighting time. It looked bad on the radar, but we lucked out and only a few sprinkles appeared. Operations stopped, as is our tradition, at 6 p.m. for dinner. The food appeared to be edible and the BBQ pork was especially good. After enjoying dinner and each other's company it was time for the CW guys to disappear back down the mountain to their base of operations. If you didn't make it out to see the CW set up, let me tell you, it had everything, and instead of the kitchen sink, it had a cot with a shroud of mosquito netting for break time.

After dinner cleanup I headed down the hill and sat in a chair in the GOTA tent where a power supply failure had shut them down. I started nodding off so I threw in the towel and hit the sack. At 5a.m. I got up and on my way to the top of the Mound, I peeked in the CW tent and there they were, pounding away. What a bunch! When I got to the top of the mound, there was Dawn on 40 Phone, still, working away. I don't know if she took a nap or not, she was right where I saw her last.

Around 5:30 a.m. it was time for a satellite pass. It was a nice one on AO51 and right near the end of the pass we made a contact, so we got the bonus points. The operators were milling around the stone pavilion on a search for breakfast and the satellite bonus points didn't add up to much in their tummies. So, as the pass faded below the horizon, I jumped into my car and headed down the road and into nearby Elburn to fetch several dozen donuts. We stopped at the CW tent on the way back to save them a walk back up the hill. A fresh donut always brings a smile but, it almost didn't have the power to wake up a sleepy young 10 meter band captain. I said almost! Sunday was another nice day and we carried on through the morning adding to our scores until there was nothing but dupes. At 1 p.m. operations ceased and tear down and pack up began. We managed to get everything back to storage by 3 p.m. and Field Day 2011 officially entered the history books.

My sincere thanks to everyone involved. I'm not going to list everyone by name, I know I'll forget one and I don't want to do that. If you were there, you know it and we know it. Your help was appreciated, your efforts both small and large made this Field Day a success and one of the most enjoyable I personally have ever had. Thanks also to all who tolerated my cooking. Did I mention that Field Day cooking should become a Presidential duty?

Don't forget the Ham Fest is Sunday July 10th. Come on out and lend a hand. Jere had to step aside on fest

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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 St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL**

Meeting Minutes June 14, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 PM by John Spasojevich AG9D— President.

- **Secretary's Report:** John AG9D announced that the meeting minutes for the May 10, 2011 Regular Meeting were published in *ArcOver*. Jack K9JE motioned to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Jeff N9JZN. The motion carried.
- **Announcements:**
 - Eric K9LGE announced the "Tour de Cure" bicycle ride held on Sunday, June 12 went well with perfect weather. This event benefits diabetes research. There were 700-800 cyclists, and 28 ham radio operators provided end-to-end coverage for the event.
 - Harry K9DXA announced that the Software-Defined Radio (SDR-SIG) is on hiatus for a few months.
 - Eric KA7YHA won the evening door prize, an AMSAT cap!
- **Committee Reports**
 - **Cougars Night** – Ken N9WCX has 30 tickets remaining for this event, which will be the July 15th Cougars baseball game at 7 PM. He noted that this game features a fireworks display.
 - **Education** – Eric AB9OS reported that the General Class Upgrade Session resulted in 100% success for all license up grade candidates. He also noted that Dawn KC9LQS and James KC9RVP were guest instructors. A new Technician license training class will be scheduled soon.
 - **Hamfest** – Jere KA0KPO reviewed on-going preparations for the FRRL Hamfest to be held on Sunday, July 10th. Jere asked for volunteers to assist Bill WB9LPW with ticket sales and help is needed with the Hamfest Talk-in.
 - **Membership** – Dean KC9EOQ reported that the FRRL presently has 164 members.
 - **Nets:** Dawn KC9LQS reported that the FRRL 2-meter net is going fine, but volunteer NCS operators are always needed.
 - **Newsletter** – Tobi K9TCD reminded that the deadline for submissions is the 20th of every month.
 - **Program** – Dick AH6EZ stated that the program for this meeting would cover three topics: Mike K9FE would discuss Field Day preparations, Dick AH6EZ would discuss his experiences and discoveries at the Dayton Hamvention, and he would also discuss the Flex radio control—essentially a "knob" for the control of the Flex SDR radios. Presently there is no specific program planned for the July meeting.
 - **Public Relations** – Dawn KC9LQS reported that she continues to seek Proclamation Letters from area municipalities.
 - **Radio in the Park** - Bill NF9D reported that the first Radio in the Park event held May 21st went well despite intermittent rain. A few scouts attended and were able to make some radio contacts.
 - **Repeaters** – Dick AH6EZ reported that the UHF repeater has been upgraded with new coax and a new antenna at a higher location on the tower. (A photo of the new antenna, courtesy of Dean KC9EOQ, is on the FRRL website home page.)
 - **VE Team** – Doug W9RD reported that the next VE session will be held at the FRRL Hamfest.

Old Business

QSL Bureau - Jack K9JE reminded members to please hand-in any QSL cards.

Membership Survey – Dawn KC9LQS reported that the Membership Survey has concluded and the compilation of the results is in progress. A drawing was held for the Survey participation raffle prizes: Dick W9IV won the Cougars Night game ticket, Eric K9LGE won the Banquet ticket, and Randolph W9HE won the one-year FRRL membership.

New Business

Buttons/Pins – Larry W9OKI announced that he had the new logo buttons and pins available, one for each member. Two styles are available: a flat button for application to an FRRL member badge or a lapel-type pin.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jim K9XP and seconded by Eric K9LGE. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Ron Jahr KC9SNI
FRRL Secretary

duties due to medical reasons and Dean is filling in. He can use our help. This is a Club function and we members should help as much as we can. The Bolingbrook club stopped doing their fest because no one was interested in helping, don't let our fest go the same way.

Our annual evening at the Cougars game is July 15th; tickets are still available for \$10 each from Ken N9WCX. Hope to see you guys out there. It's a fireworks night, so if you live in a town that cancelled their 4th of July fireworks, here's a chance to enjoy a show.

Radio in the Park will be August 13th at Campton Hills Forest Preserve, we'll have food there and Bill NF9D will have more information at the meetings in July and August. Hope you can make it out for a fun day of radio and socializing.

New Members

Welcome to the following new member:

CALL	NAME
KC9UGO	Richard Robinson

The ARRL Incoming QSL Bureau System

Reprinted with permission from QST December 2000

Within the US and Canada, the ARRL DX QSL Bureau System is made up of numerous call area bureaus that act as central clearing houses for QSLs arriving from foreign countries. These "incoming" bureaus are staffed by volunteers. The service is currently free and ARRL membership is not required, although operating costs are funded from ARRL membership dues. That's why we welcome your support as an ARRL Member.

How it Works

Most countries have "outgoing" QSL bureaus that operate in much the same manner as the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service. The member sends his cards to his outgoing bureau where they are packaged and shipped to the appropriate countries.

A majority of the DX QSLs are shipped directly to the individual incoming bureaus where volunteers sort the incoming QSLs by the first letter of the call sign suffix. One individual may be assigned the responsibility of handling from one or more letters of the alphabet. All Incoming QSL Bureaus have e-mail addresses. Some bureaus have active Web pages. Please send an e-mail to buro@arrrl.org for the e-mail address or URL of your Bureau.

Claiming your QSLs

Send a 5 x 7½ or 6 x 9-inch self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) or money credit where applicable to

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-May 2011

By Eric Needles AB9OS

The HF Challenge is steadily moving forward. Several small updates from several participants. Guess all the easy ones have been worked!

This month, we welcome Jack K9JE to the Challenge. It's good to have you back! Also, take a look at the Ragchew category. There are more participants than we've had in a long time and that's always a good thing.

I'll keep this short this month. Remember, it is never too late to get into the Challenge, just pick a category and e-mail your scores to challenge@frrl.org. And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9MMS-CW	50	10	177	237
K9BQL-CW	34	5	99	138
NF9D-QRP	39	4	46	89
W9IV-QRP	28	5	54	87
N5EP-CW	42	4	13	59
KC9SNI-10m	1		16	17
K9LGE-Digital	9		2	11
AB9OS-CW	2			2

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ	50	10	231	291
AH6EZ	50	10	227	287
KC9DAO	40	6	92	138
N4LZ	30	1	101	132
N9JZN	26	5	76	107
NA9A	22	0	71	93
KC9EOQ	29	4	47	80

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	39	9	143	191
W9DTR	50	11	129	190
KC9LQS	30	8	76	114
K9TCD	38	5	67	110
K9FBI	35	6	54	95
K9IH	27	3	40	70
WB9CHY	32	3	4	39

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
N5EP	35/2	2	39
AH6EZ	21/2	9	32
W9DTR	23/3	4	30
K9IH	20	7	27
K9LGE			9
NA9A	7	1	8
AB9OS	2		2

July Program Notes

The July program will be about QRP rigs and how to best operate QRP. Members are encouraged to bring in their commercial or home brew QRP rigs for show-and-tell, as well as have their transmitter power output measured.

The ARRL Incoming QSL Bureau System (Continued from page 3)

the bureau serving your call sign district. Neatly print your callsign in the upper left corner of the envelope. Place your mailing address on the front of the envelope. A suggested way to send envelopes is to affix a first class stamp and clip extra postage to the envelope. Then, if you receive more than 1 oz of cards, they can be sent in the single package.

Some incoming bureaus sell envelopes or postage credits in addition to the normal SASE handling. They provide the proper envelope and postage upon the prepayment of a certain fee. The exact arrangements can be obtained by sending your inquiry with a SASE to your area bureau. The incoming bureau for the ninth call area is Northern Illinois DX Assn, W9 Incoming QSL Bureau, PO Box 273, Glenview, IL 60025-0273.

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Helpful Hints

Good cooperation between the DXer and the bureau is important to ensure a smooth flow of cards. Remember that the people who work in the area bureaus are volunteers. They are providing you with a valuable service. With that thought in mind, please pay close attention to the following DOs and DON'Ts:

DOs

- DO keep self-addressed 5 x 7½ or 6 x 9-inch envelopes or money credits on file at your bureau, with your call in the upper left corner, and affix at least one unit of first-class postage.
- DO send the bureau enough postage to cover SASEs on file and enough to take care of possible postage rate increases.
- DO respond quickly to any bureau request for SASEs, stamps or money. Unclaimed card backlogs are the bureaus' biggest problem.
- DO notify the bureau of your new call as you upgrade. Please send SASEs with your new call, in addition to SASEs with your old call.
- DO include a SASE with any information request to the bureau.
- DO notify the bureau in writing if you don't want your cards.
- DO notify your bureau of a change in address.

DON'Ts

- DON'T send domestic US-to-US cards to the various call-area bureaus.
- DON'T expect DX cards to arrive for several months after the QSO. Overseas delivery is very slow. Many cards coming from overseas bureaus are over a year old.
- DON'T send your outgoing DX cards to your call-area bureau.
- DON'T send SASEs to your "portable" bureau. For example, WB8IMY/1 sends SASE's to the W8 bureau, not the W1 bureau.
- DON'T send SASEs or money credits to the ARRL Outgoing QSL Service.
- DON'T send SASEs larger than 6 x 9 inches. SASEs larger than this require additional postage surcharges.

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 [frri.org](http://www.frri.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:

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60510-0673

Email:

info@frri.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frri.org>

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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.frri.org>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

July, 2011

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

August, 2011

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—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.